



LOWEST OF THE LOW – VANDAL ATTACK ON REPAIRED MEMORIAL



The Boer War memorial in Dudley has been attacked again

A CEMETERY war memorial has been vandalised – for the second time – after work to repair it.

The Boer War memorial stands proudly in Dudley Cemetery, and depicts a soldier with a rifle and fixed bayonet defending a wounded bugler.

The monument commemorates the 56 Dudley men who died during the conflict in South Africa between 1899 and 1902.

However, a determined vandal has climbed up the base listing the engraved names and snapped the soldier's bayonet off. It follows previous damage to the same statue in 2013, when the soldier's original bronze rifle was stolen, and his marble hands broken off.

Money was then raised to repair the memorial in time for Remembrance Day in 2015. A replacement rifle and hands were carved by stonemason Malcolm Morris, while aluminium was used to create a new bayonet and strap.

Sad

Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "It is just terribly sad. We have got a great rapport with the military in this area. To hear that someone has wantonly vandalised a memorial, it is beyond understanding. Whoever did this is the lowest of the low.

"Once again we will rally around and support any restoration."

Following the previous repair work, the

memorial was granted Grade II listed status by Historic England. The monument was first unveiled on September 23, 1904, by Lieutenant General Sir Neville Gerald Lyttleton. It cost around £300, a sum that was paid for by public subscription. It was designed by a former student of the Dudley School of Art, Henry Owen Burgess.

The whole memorial stands 5.5m high and its design incorporates crossed rifles and the British Colonial pattern helmet. An inscription reads 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'. The figures were made of Sicilian marble. Historic England recognised it as a substantial and elaborate example of a Boer War Memorial.

COURT

Man charged after youth football attack

A 52-year-old man has been charged following a violent incident at a children's football match that left a referee injured.

It happened during an under-14s game between Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Harriers at Newfield Park, in Halesowen on March 20.

Police confirm that Nahad Yafai, 52, of Parkside Road, Colley Gate, has been charged with wounding with intent.

He has been bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court on September 12.

Referee Oliver Howard was hurt during a game in Stourbridge and District Youth and Girls Football League, while a male spectator, aged 49, was also injured.

FIRE

Bosses promise to rebuild restaurant

BOSSSES of Wall Heath restaurant Hickory's Smokehouse have promised to rebuild the popular eatery, which was gutted by a huge blaze last week.

A spokesman said: "We are definitely going to rebuild, and that is largely because of the overwhelming levels of support we have had from customers and local businesses."

The restaurant opened in November and employs some 65 staff. Bosses aim to relocate staff to other branches.

● 'Distracted' – see page 14

ROADS

Overnight closure for resurfacing work

OVERNIGHT closures will be in force on Dudley's High Street from tonight (Thursday).

The road will close between Stafford Street and Market Place to allow resurfacing work to be carried out. It will be shut between 7pm and 3am tonight and tomorrow night (Friday).

The road will then be closed during the day on Sunday, between 8am and 4pm, to allow the work to be completed.

Diversion signs will be in place. Dudley Council's environment boss Hillary Bills asked motorists to be patient while the work was taking place.

INSIDE

WAR DIARY IS PUT ON SHOW



PAGE 6

Everything must go – including thousands of jobs STAFF IN TEARS AS BHS CLOSSES

EVERYTHING that could be moved had to go – including the fixtures and fittings – as the last BHS store in the West Midlands closed at the Merry Hill centre.

Shoppers snapped up some incredible bargains on Sunday but some staff were in tears as they face an uncertain future.

Scores of bargain-hungers were queuing outside when the branch at the shopping centre to opened for the last time and within minutes it was packed with shoppers grabbing bargains by the armful.

Every item of clothing and even electrical goods like toasters cost just £2. DVDs and CDs were ten for £1 but if you wanted the dishwashers from the cafe you were out of luck. They had already been snapped up along with the sinks, tables and freezers.

Tom Jones, aged 35, the store's operations manager, said: "I just feel very sad for all the 11,000 employees who have lost their job. It should never have been allowed to happen."

The shop had 160 staff but was down to 95 on its final day because others had already found work elsewhere.

Devastated

Mr Jones, with 12 years in retail, is still looking. He said: "I have got nothing in the pipeline. I am struggling but I have kept plodding on. My partner is devastated over what has happened to us."

"It will be terrible to walk past the shop tomorrow and see the inside completely bare. We have had a lot of support from the local community, especially other businesses in Merry Hill who have done their best to offer jobs to our staff, who stayed loyal to the end."

Jo Cook a 45-year-old mother-of-two from Tipton is among the eight employees who had worked at the branch since it opened 26 years ago.

The sales assistant said: "I burst into

Report By John Scott

tears as I drove home last night when it finally hit me that today would be my last at BHS. I have loved working here.

"What makes it worse is that this store has always made a profit but the management of the company just wanted to make money out of the business for themselves. As a result of that we have all lost our jobs."

"I saw Dominic Chappell, who bought the company for £1, at the store conference last September. It feels like he along with Sir Philip Green and his wife have just trampled all over us."

Grace Redding, aged 22, of Stourbridge, had worked at the store for more than four years. Looking at some of the shoppers rushing for last-minute bargains, she said: "They are behaving as if it was a jumble sale and acting like a lot of vultures."

Shopper Patricia Attwell, 58, of Wall Heath, said: "I feel very sorry for the staff. I have been shopping at this store for the past 20 years. I only had to take one item back and that was my fault."

Merry Hill's BHS and 21 other branches closed on Sunday, the last of the BHS 164-shop chain, ending 88 years of retail history.



BHS staff Jo Cook and Tom Jones had words of comfort for each other as the Merry Hill store closed



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Bag thief threw pensioner to ground



Mugging victim Noor Jahan

A GRANDMOTHER'S arm was badly broken as she was mugged on the way home from a supermarket.

Noor Jahan's limb was shattered when she was thrown to the floor by a man during the attack outside Saltwells Education Centre on Bowling Green Road, Netherton, on Sunday, August 21, at between 10.40 and 10.55am.

The thief then kicked the 69-year-old before snatching her handbag with £100 cash and bank cards inside and jumping into a dark blue car. Her bank card was later used at cashpoints to withdraw amounts totalling £300.

The widow was left needing surgery to insert a metal rod and plates into her injured right arm.

Mrs Jahan said: "I had been to Aldi and was on my way home. I was crossing to the other side of the road and then somebody behind me held my neck and kicked me."

She also suffered bruising and has pain from where she was grabbed around the neck.

"Now I feel terrible pain," added Mrs Jahan, a retired shopkeeper. "They said my arm will never be 100 per cent right."

She says she now feels scared to walk alone but said: "I want to see his face again, and ask him why he did that to me." Mrs Jahan thanked the couple who came to her aid, adding: "They saved my life."

Mrs Jahan caught a glimpse of the man who assaulted her and said that he was aged around 20 to 22, tall with a long face.

Police spokesman Lee Page said the attacker had driven off towards Saltwells Road and the police investigation was ongoing.

Jilted boyfriend broke ex-sweetheart's nose

A JILTED boyfriend broke the nose of his former sweetheart when she refused to have him back, a judge heard.

Law student Akeeb Pervaiz had been going out with the victim for three years before she decided to end the relationship, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 22-year-old from Stourbridge, who worked part time as a security guard, pleaded with her on the doorstep of her home to give him a second chance on November 11, explained prosecutor Mr Howard Searle. He continued: "He asked to be forgiven for things that had happened in the past but she said 'no, this time it is over for good'. He had been trying to embrace her but, on hearing this, broke off, called her a bitch and head-butted her."

Pervaiz ran to his car and drove off. His victim had to go to Russells Hall Hospital for treatment to a fractured nose. It was corrected without surgery.

His former girlfriend said in a statement that the attack left her psychologically as well as physically injured.

Panic

She explained: "I lost all my confidence. I felt ugly and could not look at myself in the mirror. I also suffered panic attacks."

Mr Benjamin Nicholls, defending, said: "This criminal folly was not premeditated but, with it he has jeopardised the career he hoped to follow and his part-time job. He comes from a respectable family. He is embarrassed and ashamed by what he did."

Pervaiz, from Paxton Road, Wollescote, admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years with 250 hours' unpaid work.

He was also told to pay the victim £500 compensation and ordered to have no contact with her for five years.

Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey told him: "You simply would not, and could not, accept that the relationship had ended. Feelings were raw but your behaviour towards that woman was disgraceful. The incident happened in her own home where she was entitled to feel safe. She has suffered significant psychological harm. She has even moved jobs because of her concern that you might come to her place of work."

Result! GCSE pupils make grade



GCSE success for Ellowes Hall pupils Maia Shillans, Joshua Edgar, Oliver Sandall and Joshua Edwards-Jones, all 16

IT was a day of smiles and celebrations for students as they received their GCSE results.

At Ellowes Hall in Dudley, almost half of the students averaged at least a grade B. This year, 82 per cent of students passed English and a third of students studying business, IT, sport and single science were awarded A* or an A grade.

Headteacher Alan Jasper said: "We are very pleased to report how well our students and staff have risen to the challenge."

"We also thank our talented and dedicated teaching staff who have worked so hard to ensure their students achieve their potential, together with their parents and carers."

Pupils at Old Swinford Hospital, Stourbridge, were also thrilled with their results, which saw them achieve a pass rate of just over 93 per cent in five or more subjects at grades at A* to C. Edward Cooper, of Stourbridge, achieved 10 A* grades and one grade A.

Headteacher Paul Kilbride said: "We are all absolutely delighted with the boys' GCSE results. I would like to thank their dedicated teachers for all that they have done."

At Ormiston Forge Academy in Cradley Heath students achieved a 53 per cent A* to C pass rate for five GCSEs. Three years ago this figure was 44 per cent.

There was also improvement at the top end with a record 91 A* grades amongst the year 11 pupils.

Park event moved after travellers invade site

TRAVELLERS have set up camp on Buffery Park - causing a charity event to be moved at the last minute.

The Friends and Residents group of the Dudley beauty spot were hit with a problem when around 30 caravans descended on the site on Wednesday night.

An event in aid of dementia patients was due to be staged at the park just three days later. It was moved to Sledmere Primary School in Buffery Road after event organiser Leah Marshall, aged 24, from Lower Gornal, had to make around 80 phone calls letting everybody know the new location.

"Why did they have to come this weekend of all weekends?" said Miss Marshall.

The clinical support worker at Russells Hall Hospital said: "I have been over, they did seem very friendly. They said they would move their caravans over to one side of the field but I couldn't just take their word for it."

"It is very frustrating with all the planning and advertising that has been done."

It is believed the travellers moved onto the site via the gate on Green Park Road. Residents claimed horses were left to run loose on the field and tyre marks were left in torn up turf.

Lynn Horton, secretary of The Friends and Residents of Buffery Park, said: "They will wreck our hard work when we have achieved our Green Flag status. Everyone does so much to keep this park going and for it to happen just before the event just makes it all worse."

Motorcyclist badly hurt in collision

A MOTORCYCLIST suffered serious injuries in a crash with a car when his helmet was flung more than 160ft by the force of the impact.

The smash happened in Saltwells Road, close to the junction with Crabourne Road, Netherton, shortly after 7.30am last Thursday.

Police officers closed the road near to The Bunch of Bluebells pub while investigations got under way.

The rider, a 21-year-old man, suffered multiple serious injuries with several fractures. He was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital specialist trauma centre. The driver of the car, a man, sustained minor injuries but did not require hospital treatment.

Witnesses are asked to contact police on 101.

Restaurant plan for electrical shop

PLANS have been put forward to change an electrical shop into a restaurant. Homers Electrical in High Street, Quarry Bank, has been proposed for the change of use, which will include a car park extension. Dudley councillors will make a decision in coming weeks.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Heathens hope to come back home

CRADLEY Heathens speedway club is in talks to return home to Dudley borough after more than 20 years away. Land in the Cradley area has been identified for a possible track venue with bosses in discussions with Dudley Council.

The club secured its immediate future last year after agreeing a deal to race at Monmore Green.

Heathens have struggled to find a permanent home since losing their track in Dudley Wood two decades ago. Hopes of a move to a site beside the M5 were dashed last year.

Former MP dies after short illness

TRIBUTES have been paid to former Wolverhampton MP Ken Purchase, who has died aged 77 after a short illness.

Mr Purchase was the Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East for 18 years until he retired in 2010, having previously served as a councillor in the city between 1970 and 1990. He died on Sunday.

Born and bred in the city, Mr Purchase was hugely respected among politicians and his constituents. He is survived by his wife Brenda and their two daughters Samantha and Lisa.

Homes plan at former gas works

HOMES are to be built on the former site of a gas works in Lower Gornal, if new plans get the green light.

An application for 10 homes on the site of the old Musk Lane Works has been lodged with planning bosses at Dudley Council.

The land has become overgrown since the demolition of the gas works, which had stood in Lower Gornal since the 1860s.

Car parking spaces would also be provided for the new properties.

Homes bid at former primary school site

A DISUSED primary school in Halesowen could be demolished and 27 homes built in its place.

Plans for the Holt Farm Primary site in Holt Road have been submitted to Dudley Council. This sets out proposals for the demolition of the existing school building and erection of 27 dwellings.

The school was closed in 2006 and the land was sold earlier this year.

One objection has been received to the plans.

Road shut for works

A DUDLEY road will be closed for three weeks due to gas main replacement work.

High View Street will be shut from September 8 to 30 to enable Balfour Beatty to carry out the essential work for National Grid Gas.

Diversions will be in place.

Cheat picks up bill for failing to declare job

A HOUSING benefit cheat who claimed more than £8,000 but failed to declare he was working, has been condemned for 'stealing from the public purse.'

Sentencing 51-year-old Donovan Christopher Stanley Langford to 200 hours of unpaid work, district judge Graham Wilkinson added: "People like you are allowing honest people on benefits to get tarred with the same brush."

The defendant, of Claverley Court, Vicarage Prospect, Dudley, pleaded guilty to dishonestly making a false statement to obtain housing benefit, and for dishonestly failing to notify the Department for Work and Pensions that he was employed.

Prosecuting, Miss Alka Brigue, acknowledged that the defendant had originally benn correctly claiming benefits but that didn't tell the benefits agency when he got a job as shop and kitchen fitter.

Miss Brigue said Langford was now paying the money back in instalments of about £120 a month.

Mr Rajesh Bassi, defending, explained that while on benefits his client had been receiving training from a company, who had been informed when he found work.

Langford also claimed he had sent a letter to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Langford was given a 12-month community order and 200 hours of unpaid work. He must also pay costs of £135 and a victim surcharge of £60.

Defendant admits bomb hoax charge

A BOMB hoax in Dudley has been admitted by a 38-year-old man when he appeared before magistrates last week.

James Paul Bywater, of Halesowen Road, Netherton, pleaded guilty to informing police that there was a bomb on that same road on July 19 this year.

However, after the court heard from the defendant that he has issues with his mental health, his case was adjourned so that a pre-sentence report can be compiled.

Bywater is charged with communicating to Pc Morgan information that he knew or believed to be false.

Bywater is due to be sentenced at Walsall magistrates court on September 14.

Community forum to meet in Gornal

THE next meeting of Dudley Council's community forum covering its Gornal and Upper Gornal and Woodsetton wards is being held in Bagderidge Social Welfare Centre, The Straits, on Monday at 6.30pm.

£1m boost for revamp of town centre

A £1 million funding boost for Dudley town centre will help preserve historic buildings for generations to come, bosses from the Heritage Lottery Fund say.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council found out last month that its bid for funds was successful, so it can now continue its regeneration of the town centre.

A total of £1.178 million has entered council coffers and plans will now be drawn up for the restoration of 14 historic buildings, for possible use by local businesses.

It follows the first phase of the project which focused on linking the town's shops area to the Civic Quarter.

Vanessa Harbar, head of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) West Midlands, said the panel was impressed

by the plans for Dudley. She added: "We believe that historic townscapes are the beating heart of local places. Therefore, HLF is pleased to continue to support Dudley Council in the regeneration of its historic town centre.

"The funding will support the next stage of Dudley's regeneration, proving that even small changes, such as improving shop fronts or restoring a building's historic features, can make a big difference to a community's economic and social wealth."

Life

Council bosses have said the funding will help 'breathe new life' into Dudley town centre, but are yet to announce which sites will be restored.

New 20mph zones for roads beside 16 schools

ROADS around more than a dozen schools are set to become 20mph zones as council chiefs look to improve safety for children.

The speed limit would be reduced outside 16 schools in the Dudley borough, while a raft of other safety measures would also be brought in.

The measures have been announced as part of the authority's Local Safety Scheme for 2016/17.

Dudley Council's deputy leader Judy Foster said: "Obviously this is something we fully support as a council - it's integral from a road safety point of view.

"We know there are schools in areas where there's a large amount of traffic, and the safety of our children is paramount both in school and on the way to school.

"This policy has been very well received by schools and parents, in particular."

In Dudley, 20mph limits would be introduced outside Woodside Community School on Highgate Road, and the Bishop Milner Catholic High School on Burton Road and the Broadway.

In Stourbridge, changes would come into force at Ham Dingle Primary School in Old Ham Lane, Oldswinford CoE Primary School, off Swinford Road, and Gig Mill Primary School, in Heath Road and Poole Street.

Schools in Halesowen to be affected would be Earls High and Tenterfields Primary, Halesbury School and Hurst Green Primary.

Markings

Elsewhere in the borough, the speed limit would be brought down at St Chad's RC Primary School and Cotwall End Primary School in Sedgley, St Mary's RC Primary School, Brierley Hill, and Brierley Hill Primary School, The Wordsley School, Colley Lane Primary School in Cradley and Fairhaven Primary School in Wordsley.

Council bosses have also said they will look at bringing in traffic regulation orders, which can restrict the use of roads at certain times, and updating road markings outside some schools.

The proposals will now be considered with a final decision expected over the coming months.

They are the latest road safety proposals to be announced after highways bosses also revealed they were considering installing speed cameras on the Birmingham New Road in Tip-ton.

Jordanne is right on song for Rio



Grand slam tennis winner Jordanne Whitley, of Halesowen, has revealed her talent as a singer-songwriter

NINE-TIME grand slam wheelchair tennis champion Jordanne Whitley MBE is set to release her first single.

The Halesowen-born athlete took to Twitter to announce her move into the music industry. The 24-year-old released her first song, Push The Clouds Away, via iTunes last week.

She said: "I wrote the song about my boyfriend. I've sang my whole life, but until recently only

my parents really knew I could sing.

"I think everyone was surprised when I sang on the wheelchair tennis anthem last year."

Jordanne said she has always been musical, becoming a grade four pianist at 12-years-old and singing in the school choir before she concentrated on tennis.

She also sang with Black Country charity band Penny Short. She recorded the new track

after her boyfriend, Marc McCarroll, also a wheelchair tennis player, bought her studio time.

Jordanne said: "I never wrote a song before and I took it to the producer, he added his expertise and then I recorded the vocals back in April."

The Paralympic bronze medalist says preparations are going to plan ahead of Rio, where she fancies her chances of gold success.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I WAS tempted to go to a screening of the new Swallows and Amazons film until I saw the online previews. I'm not sure I want to watch a bunch of kids who can sail better than I can.

ARTHUR Ransome's adventure in the Lakes is very much a piece of its time. The 1930s kids have sharp knives, they light open fires, declare war on other kids and go sailing without lifejackets. If this movie were set in 2016 it would be Swallows and Asbos.

THE parents would probably get arrested, too. Swallows and Amazons begins with the kids' naval captain father hearing of their proposed voyage and sending the famous Duffers' Telegram to the children he has inexplicably named Titty and Roger. "Better drowned than duffers. If not duffers won't drown." So that's desertion, child neglect and dodgy forename-selection. The CPS would have a field day.

CRYSTAL-ball department. On July 6 this column advised kids upset by the Brexit vote not to take German nationality because "National service may be suspended at present but who knows what the future may bring? If you think Brexit will muck up your glittering career plans, how about two years in the Luftwaffe?" This week the German government says it is considering reintroducing conscription. Now, what size boots do you take, sonny?

THE most sensible comment on Corbyn's "RAM-PACKED" train journey comes from his Labour comrade, Harriet Harman:



"He's got a campaign team – you would have thought they would have booked him a seat." Quite.

AND for those who say such incidents are trivial and of no interest, in less than 24 hours Traingate generated almost 20,000 comments on the Guardian website. It's little things like Traingate, Jennifer's Ear and Gordon Brown's "bigoted woman" remark that win and lose general elections. From now on, whenever Corbyn is seen anywhere near empty seats, the lethal sniggering will begin. If Parliament were not in recess and David Cameron were still in No 10, he would have ripped Corbyn to shreds in Prime Minister's Questions.

AS the nation's favourite bare-chested scyther prepares for another series, a Daily Telegraph reader asks a pertinent question. Why do we call the drama POL-dark? Most Cornish words have the stress on the second syllable as with PolZEATH, PenZANCE and PolPERRO. So why is this show not PolDARK? Answers by email, thanks, not on a postCARD.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Station could be Black Country hub

A MAJOR revamp of Sandwell and Dudley railway station is among proposals put forward to the Government by a rail body.

West Midlands Rail said the station needed modernising in order to be recognised as a 'Black Country hub'.

West Midlands Rail (WMR), a consortium of 14 local authorities from across the Midlands, said there

needed to be better recognition of the importance of the Oldbury station, which is the busiest between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

It comes after Labour deputy leader and West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson criticised proposals to cut the number of high-speed trains stopping at the station. The Government is consulting on the future of the Inter-City West Coast Rail Line.

Councillor Mark Winnington, WMR chairman, said: "This requires station modernisation, better facilities, and consideration of how other modes of transport can better integrate with the railway.

"Enhancing the opportunity for modal interchange would see Sandwell and Dudley move towards realising its potential as a significant regional inter-city hub."



Rail station needs a major revamp

Eyesore mountain of rubbish finally moved

By Richard Guttridge

IT DOMINATED the skyline in a Brierley Hill street for seven years but at long last the rubbish mountain has gone.

A seven-month operation to clear the waste, which had been left to pile up at the Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) site in Moor Street, is almost complete.

Until the eyesore was removed, neighbours of the nightmare site were overshadowed by a towering pile of trash reaching almost 20ft.

Diggers have been clawing away at the mound in recent months.

The rubbish developed into a seven-year saga as residents and councillors were left frustrated in their battle to have it shifted.

RDF company director Robert McNaughton was jailed for failing to remove it in 2013. The breakthrough came at the start of this year when the owners of the site agreed to pay around £750,000 to clear the waste.

Work to clear the rubble, wood, plastic, bricks, tyres and household waste – which had been left for so long that it sprouted vegetation – began in January.

Campaign

Brierley Hill councillor Rachel Harris, who led a campaign to get the waste cleared, said: "We are really pleased. This shows if a community works together they can change things in their area.

"Everybody was deeply unhappy about that site but we have worked with the Environment Agency and the owners and have managed to get something done about it."

Steve Dunn, secretary of the Brierley Hill Tenants and Residents Association, said: "It has practically been cleared and all the residents are quite happy. We have been fighting to have it cleared for almost 10 years. It's a great relief."

Councillor Harris was hopeful plans to build housing on the site could now be resurrected as developers had been worried that they would have to pay for the clean up.



Campaigners living near the eyesore site fought for seven years to have the mountain of waste removed



Mountain no more – the former RDF site in Moor Street is being cleared up and it is hoped homes can be built on the land

Town centre museum to be used for staff training

DUDLEY'S landmark town centre museum and art gallery building is to become a council staff training and conference centre.

Displays are set to be moved from the museum in Priory Street later this year to a new home in Dudley Archives, on Tipton Road, which has sparked fears that the iconic town centre building would be left empty.

But a council document says talks are under way to relocate staff and functions from Netherton's Saltwells Education Development Centre to the former museum. This would be a short-term move to help keep the building from falling into disrepair, says the council's regeneration boss Khurshid Ahmed.

Councillor Ahmed added: "That particular building will be temporarily used as a conference and training centre. We're trying to bring staff into the town and hopefully that will have a positive impact.

"The main concern people raised about shifting from the museum in the town centre to the Archives was a loss of trade in the town.

"Clearly what we don't want is for the building to be closed and nothing happening there so it falls into disrepair. That is why temporarily we will be shifting staff from elsewhere to use it for conferences.

"There's an opportunity to continue to use the building and that will have a positive part to play in the town centre economy. In the future we will find a more permanent use for it."

Age UK Dudley is battling on

AN ACTIVITY centre for the elderly in Dudley has announced what it hopes will not be its last programme of events.

Age UK Dudley's Springboard Project is again launching activities for people aged 50 and over, starting this month. However, it comes as the centre at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill faces an uncertain future. Dudley Council withdrew £300,000 in funding and the centre also had it application for cash from the Big Lottery rejected.

The centre has 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers who run various health and wellbeing activities.

A spokesman said: "Although the centre is bravely fighting on, sadly, this may be the last term of activities unless further funding can be found."

Call (01384) 571830 for details.

Village's beer and music festival is off

THE tenth annual Belbroughton Beer and Music Festival has been cancelled. The fundraiser for local charities was to have been held next weekend but organisers announced on the festival website that a licence had not been obtained in time.

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Arson text threats to ex-girlfriend led to court

A 28-year-old man was given a suspended prison sentence after sending texts to his ex-girlfriend threatening to burn down her house.

Sean O'Donnell, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, sent several texts to his former partner on July 18, including saying he was going to torch her home and advising her to board up her windows.

Police were called and when they arrived at the victim's property they found O'Donnell outside. He claimed that he had never intended to actually carry out the threat.

He pleaded guilty to sending a menacing message at Dudley Magistrates Court, contrary to the Communications Act 2003.

Prosecutor Mr Alka Brigue outlined the several messages were sent to the victim, seen and photographed by police.

Representing O'Donnell, Mr Rajesh Bassi highlighted that his client made a full and frank admission during interview.

Mr Bassi added: "When they get angry, they send each other messages." He added that O'Donnell was intoxicated at the time.

Passing sentence, district judge Graham Wilkinson said: "I understand that you were in drink, but other people after drinking don't send text messages threatening to burn a house down with people in it."

O'Donnell received a 12-week sentence suspended for 12 months and is subject to a six-week curfew. He must pay £135 costs and £115 surcharge.

Super Bob will open hospice fete

PEPPA Pig will rub shoulders with Albion legend 'Super' Bob Taylor at the Mary Stevens Hospice Summer Fete on Saturday

Super Bob will officially kick off proceedings at 11.30am with entertainment in two main performance areas at the hospice site in Hagley Road, Oldswinford.

The main stage will see musicians such as local choir Got2Sing perform until 4pm when The Empty Can, will bring the show to a close with their headline set, including the Black Country Anthem. Over on the performance stage, guests will be treated to acrobatics, fitness and strength displays, before the annual dog show.

The fete entrance fee is £2 for adults and £1 for under-16s.

Neighbourhood police meeting

POLICE will host a community meeting in Sedgley on September 15.

It will run from 7pm until 8pm at the Dormston School in Mill Bank.

Officers from the Sedgley neighbourhood police team will be on hand.

Students get wrong grades in results mix-up



Dudley College issued an apology

THREE Dudley College students were given the wrong AS-level results after an examination board mix-up.

An error collating media studies grades meant the students were initially given better results than they actually achieved.

One teenager was left devastated after seeing her A grade wiped out when she was informed it was actually a B. Another student saw a B grade reduced to a C.

Dudley College has apologised for the gaffe, which they said was the fault of an examination board.

The three students received the wrong grades on A-level results day but the college say they were quickly informed about the errors.

One mother said her 17-year-old daughter, who attended the Dudley Sixth campus on Ednam Road, was upset to find out she hadn't done as well as she thought when she was sent a text by the college.

The mother, from Sedgley, said the family had been out for a celebration meal but her daughter was in tears when she got the news from college.

A spokesman for Dudley College

said in a statement: "We sincerely apologise that in three instances there was a temporary transposition error in collating and communicating AS level results from the Welsh Examination Board. This was rectified as soon as possible and the small number of learners impacted were informed immediately.

"We issued over 3,000 results and do make every effort to ensure accuracy. In this instance we are sorry that we fell short of providing the highest quality service that is our norm."

Councils to unite for meeting over travellers

A SURGE in the number of traveller camps across the Black Country has prompted councils to set up a meeting to discuss the problem.

As the number of travellers in the area rises this summer, so too are reports from residents and businesses about anti-social behaviour, crime and mess left behind by travellers.

It has prompted a joint meeting of Black Country authorities, led by Sandwell Council who have put the annual cost of dealing with illegal encampments as in the region of £250,000

Nick Bubalo, the council's director for regeneration and economy, said: "Sandwell are in the process of co-ordinating a joint Black Country meeting between respective councils and police chiefs to look more strategically at how we can deal with this growing issue.

"The council is looking at the legislation to see where a more targeted approach can be taken in relation to the worst offenders."

Mr Bubalo also confirmed that the council has established a monthly working group with the police to respond to the growing concerns raised by the public.

He added that the council is working closely with West Midlands Police.

Concerns

But there are concerns at the police's response. Dudley Council's Halesowen North representative Councillor Hilary Bills said: "There's been a little bit of inconsistency with the police this year, because there's something called a section 61 of the criminal code, which is actually a forced entry. Last year we were told, make your parks and green spaces secure, so that if they have to perform a criminal act to break in, the police will have something called a section 61 and then they have 24 hours to go.

"My experience in my own ward is we've had two incursions, on both occasions the travellers had to commit a crime to get in, and on neither occasion did police use a section 61. Regular people, law-abiding people, do not understand why other people can come into our community, break the laws, and nothing happens."

West Midlands Police communications manager Lee Page said: "There seems to be a misconception that the police have the power to immediately close down these camps and move people on, but in reality the process is controlled by law.

"Despite the best efforts of police and councils, and our desire to secure swift vacation of the land,



A police officer at a travellers' camp in the Black Country – there has been a huge increase this year

this process can sometimes take up to a week if we have to go to court."

Superintendent Phil Dolby said: "West Midlands Police has a positive duty to serve all communities in a fair and equitable way. Our officers and staff need to strike a balance between the rights of the individual and the rights of the settled community when dealing with gipsies and travellers."

According to local authority data, Walsall has been the most affected district, seeing a 93 unauthorised encampments so far this year, compared to 85 during the first eight months of last year.

Sandwell has been faced with 46 encampments up until August this year, more than the whole of 2015, when they had 41. Furthermore, they estimate that in total over the last two years the coun-

cil has had to deal with more than 1,000 caravans parked on sites illegally.

Another of the most affected boroughs is Dudley, where the council has already recorded 22 encampments comprising 370 caravans so far this year, compared to 16 encampments and only 72 caravans during the same period last year. Even by the end of 2015, the total number of caravans they had seen was around a third of the number which have already come into Dudley borough so far in 2016.

Although Wolverhampton Council hasn't confirmed figures for the number of encampments, they have seen a significant increase in calls reporting incursions during the same months, up to 51 this year compared to 19 last year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tesco hands out 2,000 free meals

TESCO stores in Dudley have donated more than 2,000 free meals as part of a national campaign.

The supermarket's community food programme, which sees unsold food given free to charities and other groups for free, has helped reached one million meals nationwide.

Rifka Chakkalakal, community food programmes manager at Tesco, said: "We are delighted to see Dudley contribute a fantastic 2,070 meals of surplus food to people in need. We believe that no food that could be eaten should go to waste."

Choir open evening for new recruits

BUDDING singers are being invited to a choir's open evening and performance on September 13.

Viva Musica Choir is appealing to anyone interested in joining a choir to come along to meet the choir members at Ham Dingle Primary School in Pedmore, Stourbridge, at 7.30pm.

The choir performs a wide range of music from Mozart to Abba and concerts are held throughout the year.

There are currently around 70 members and the group also organises regular social events and supports various charities.

High-rise issues to be discussed

COUNCIL tenants who live in high-rise properties have been invited to discuss issues relating to their estates.

Dudley Council's high-rise living forum will consider ways to improve residents' lives on Tuesday. The meeting will take place at the Saltwells Education Centre in Netherton, from 7pm to 8.30pm.

Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm.

For further information call (01384) 815168.

Geology expert talks about geopark plan

A BLACK Country geology expert is giving a talk in Wolverhampton Art Gallery on Tuesday afternoon.

Graham Worton, curator and keeper of Geology at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, will speak at 1.30pm.

His hour-long talk on 'The Geological Heartland will look at the major initiative underway by the Black Country councils to get the area international recognition as a Geopark. Mr Worton will explain how the area contains some of the world's finest fossils.

Freemasons' open day

PEOPLE can find out more about the Freemasons at an open day which will dispel myths about the organisation and highlight its charity work and fellowship. The Stourbridge branch host the event at its regular meeting place, the Talbot Hotel in High Street on Saturday, September 10, 10am-5pm.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Problem of where this rail hub is stationed

SANDWELL & Dudley railway station didn't get off to the best start. When it was upgraded to inter-city status amid much fanfare back in 1984, the driver of the first express train forgot to stop, leaving the civic bigwigs stranded on the platform.

Now with threats of cuts to its inter-city services, our local leaders are fighting back. West Midlands Rail, a consortium of councils across the West Midlands, says Sandwell & Dudley should be modernised to reflect its status as a "Black Country hub".

Normally, I switch off the moment anybody says the word 'hub'. But any investment in the Black Country's threadbare rail network is something that should be welcomed.

The problem with Sandwell & Dudley is that, despite its grandiose name, it is a bit in the middle of nowhere. Before the inter-city upgrade, it was plain Oldbury, but even that was a bit above its station. In truth, it is next to a tyre fitter's between Oldbury and West Brom. Which is great if you want to go to London while having your tyres fitted, but that tends to be a niche market.

What they should have done was upgraded Dudley Port, up the road in Tip-ton, instead. This, too, is a bit out of the way, but it was also an interchange for the old South Staffordshire line, which used to link up with Stourbridge, Dudley, Wednesbury, Walsall and Lichfield. Imagine if that was reopened, and you could get from Wednesbury to London or Manchester with just one change. That would put the Black Country on the rail map. A hub with spokes.

As recently as last year there were plans to introduce a rudimentary very light rail service linking Dudley Port to Dudley town centre. I thought it was fantastic, but local government deemed it a threat to its beloved Midland Metro.

We could have seen the first stage of reconnecting vast swathes of the Black Country to the national rail network. Instead, we got an artist's impression of a tram outside Dudley Zoo.

□ □ □ □

THE so-called 'burkini' must be one of the most ridiculous garments ever invented. The idea of sunbathing while dressed up like somebody from the Scottish Widows advert is inexplicable, and given that it only appeared during the past 10 years or so, it can hardly be described as fundamental to Islam.

Yet how can anybody fail to be appalled at the sight of four armed French policemen swaggering across the beach in Nice and ordering a Muslim woman to remove her clothing?

Incidentally, two of the coppers in the picture were wearing knee-length shorts with their body armour. Maybe they are not in the best position to tell people what to wear?



A Naafi canteen that Sgt McArdle ran



Sgt John McArdle, second from left, during service in Egypt



Former soldier Sgt McArdle poses while on active duty

Soldier's view of war from canteen in diary

THE diary of a World War Two soldier from Bilston has become the basis of a new book compiled by a fellow veteran. Raymond Griffiths was given the diary of Sergeant John McArdle following a chance encounter.

Mr Griffiths, aged 90, of Drew Crescent, Stourbridge, was given the diary by Sgt McArdle's son Jim around two years ago.

Jim had planned to ceremoniously burn the diary but had second thoughts. He approached Mr Griffiths as a well-known local historian, through his late wife Emily, who worked at a nearby newsagents.

Mr McArdle, aged 68, said: "I told Emily that I was planning to burn the diary and scatter the ashes by my mum and dad's grave. She immediately said 'Oh no, don't do that, Ray would like to have a look at that' and that's how it all started."

The diary revealed the Second World War experiences of the sergeant including his travels around the Middle East.

Account

After reading the diary and cross referencing it with major events during the war, Mr Griffiths was inspired to create a book based on the diary.

Entitled 'My Diary of my service in the Middle East 1941 - 1945 by Sergeant John McArdle RASC/EFT', the book gives a first person account of the war, including the realities of living in and travelling around Syria to the Valley of the Kings.

Mr McArdle said: "Dad was a proper old soldier. Whenever you'd leave for a trip he'd salute you before you went out the door. Even just before he died in 1995, my wife and I went to visit him in hospital and as we were leaving he saluted. He died the next day."

"I think he would be so proud of the work Ray has done in bringing his diary to life, I think he would love it to be honest."



Raymond Griffiths with a photo of Sgt McArdle, a scrapbook and the diary he has made into a book

The diary of a Second World War veteran has been turned into a book. Reporter JESSICA LABHART takes up the story

Mr Griffiths said: "The diary was of great interest to me as a veteran myself, it really brought back some memories."

"Sergeant McArdle was charged with setting up the NAAFI's - the canteens run by Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes to provide food for soldiers abroad."

"He never fired a shot throughout the war, from what the diary says anyway."

"One of the most interesting episodes in the

book is when he was tasked with creating a meal for what he called 'the big three' which was the Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Theodore Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin, before they attended the Tehran Conference."

Chandelier

Sgt McArdle set to work straight away on November 18 1943, but was told on November 22 that the plan to entertain the three was cancelled, after a crystal chandelier was installed over the dining table!

Now Mr Griffiths hopes his book will be featured in an exhibition at the Wolverhampton City Archives, along with several of the other



Raymond himself as a serviceman

artefacts he has amassed from the former sergeant.

He said: "I have two or three photo albums from his time in the war, as well as his pay book, his soldiers' release book and a special baton he always carried with him in case of any trouble. I think it's inspired by his time in the Middle East, as it has a snake's head carved into the handle."

Though Mr Griffiths discovered that the cost of publishing the book would be too high, he hopes that people may be able to enjoy it as part of the exhibition.

He said: "I think we will have a captive audience here in Wolverhampton for the work, so I hope I will be able to show it off, next to the fascinating document that inspired it."

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Why schools should emulate the Olympics

HAVING ditched comprehensive schools in favour of academies, the Tories now intend to resurrect Grammar schools as a means of improving social mobility – proving yet again that they are completely out of touch with the needs of ordinary people.

Take it from me, a former secondary schoolboy, labelling children as failures at the age of eleven seriously inhibits social mobility.

I missed the eleven plus exam and preparations for it due to being confined in hospital. I took the exam, still unprepared, in another school. I know

without doubt that it contributed to my failure.

My siblings and I subsequently worked extremely hard to achieve the status we eventually attained: a managing director, a deputy head teacher, middle management and a supervisor.

Changing educational systems is both expensive and irrelevant to improving social mobility, the answer is more fundamental. We only need to emulate the actions of the UK sport's governing bodies that have produced

Britain's best Olympics results in 100 years. They recruit the best mentors and trainers, provide the best facilities and, crucially, do not suffer from continual interference from central government.

The route to social mobility lies in producing better teachers, strengthening school relations with parents, providing the best facilities and allowing schools and local authorities to work together. Scrap the billions going into HS2 and put the money into education.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Fish taken from canals for dinner

WHILE walking my dog along a lovely stretch of a canal in Oldbury I came across what can only be described as a man-made eyecore. What I saw was three extinguished fires, at least 50 beer cans and the packaging of a fishing rod start-up kit.

A young man told me that people night-fish the canals and eat the fish they catch. He put his foot in the embers, moved it about and there where the remains of fish. He told me that this sort of thing was happening all over the Midlands and Warrens Hall Nature Reserve, near Dudley, had also had a lot of fish, ducks and coots killed for food.

If this is so, what is being done to stop it? If it is allowed to carry on unchecked then our waterways, pools and ponds will be barren of fish and ducks. The mind boggles on why this is happening when fish is in abundance in the supermarkets.

G HARPER
Oldbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't write off the non-academic pupils

IT is result time again in GCSE and A-level exams and once again we are hearing how certain areas of society have 'under achieved'. This year they say it is boys from working class background. Rubbish!

I am sick and tired of keep hearing these students being put into boxes because they have not done as well as the education system would have liked in their academic subjects.

These are human beings who excel in different areas and it is up to the system to sort out an education programme which allows for non-academic students to be given a chance to shine. All the schools are asked to produce is pupils who can give high marks in particular subjects and are judged on those marks.

What about the lad who can name every plant in the garden but can't add up very well? What about the girl who can design and make all her own clothes but can't write an essay? These are the ones that are continually told they have 'under achieved' and come out of school thinking they will never get anywhere. The world does not only need academics, we need manual workers too. What all pupils need is a high grade in self-esteem.

JENNY JAMES
Wordsley

Abuse off motorist on mobile

I have just returned from a visit to my local supermarket. I noticed a female driver at a road junction about to turn with her right hand clearly holding a mobile phone. Regrettably, this is a sight we see all too often on our roads these days.

In light of fatal accidents caused by driver mobile phone usage whilst in charge of a moving vehicle, I find it hard to believe that some drivers selfishly persist in this dangerous practice. This woman also had a small child passenger in the front seat.

I tooted my horn and shouted, "You shouldn't be on your phone!" Sadly, I expect many of your readers will not be surprised by her response. I despair at the example some people are setting the younger members of our society. Perhaps a strengthening of the law and punishment against this perilous behaviour will be the only real deterrent.

MRS CLAIRE JONES
Dudley

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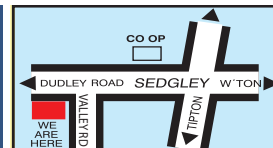
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Tragic teen worried about an online photo

A TEENAGE girl who committed suicide had been concerned over a photograph she had taken being shared online, an inquest heard.

Phoebe Connop, aged 16, who attended Windsor High School in Halesowen, had been working with her father to get some money for her summer holidays on July 7. He had taken her home early because she said she was feeling unwell.

Black Country Coroner's Court, in Oldbury, heard that when her father returned after work to the address in Witley Avenue, Halesowen, expecting to find her ready to go out for a meal, he found her hanging.

The inquest heard that she had been speaking regularly with an Asian man she called her boyfriend, despite the two never having met.

In a private Instagram chat with her friends, she shared an edited picture of herself where her skin tone had been darkened. She was also wearing a scarf wrapped around her head.

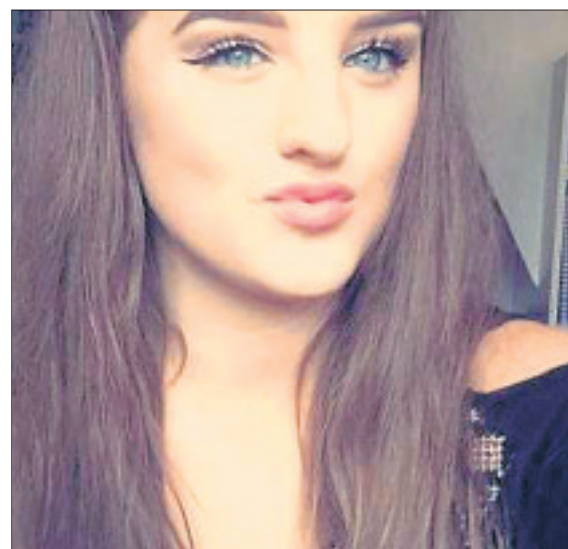
Image

She told friends online the look was to get approval from her 'boyfriend's' parents.

The image was then taken out of the private chat and spread wider by one of her friends, prompting Phoebe into fearing a backlash, the inquest was told.

Detective sergeant Katherine Tomkins said: "From speaking to her friends in the weeks following her death, we discovered the image had circulated further than she wanted it to."

"There had been some negative reaction and she confided in her friend, who did take the image down at her request, she was scared of what the



Phoebe Connop was worried that the image she had created would cause offence that there was anything wrong, let alone anything that would lead her to do this."

Phoebe, who was born in Stafford, was a keen gymnast who had ambitions of becoming a midwife.

Her family found a 'wish list' in her bedroom following her death, which stated that she wanted to study in sixth form.

Her father, Lawrence Connop, said: "She was a lovely girl who would never want to cause offence to anyone."

"She had shown me no indication in the weeks leading up to her death

Black Country Coroner Zafar Siddique gave his condolences to Phoebe's family as he delivered a conclusion of suicide.

He said: "This is an absolute tragedy for the family and I can't imagine the pain and distress they are going through, as well as her friends."

"There is nothing I can say to help with the pain but I offer my sincere condolences."

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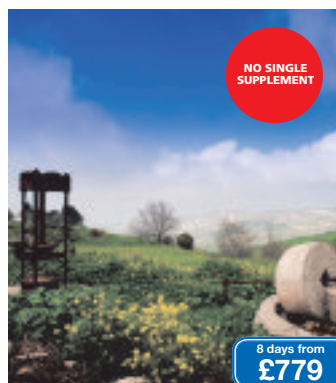
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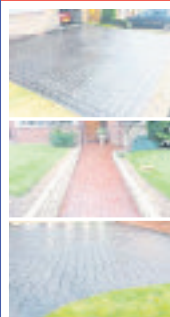
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Memorial oak tree is planted

Hawne TG

VICE-CHAIRMAN Chris Hicks opened the July meeting and presented Joyce Graves with a bouquet of flowers to celebrate her recent birthday.

She then presented long service badges. Betty Connop received a badge to mark 40 years of membership, while Sheila Jevons, Sheila Pearson and Margaret Reid all received their 25 year badges.

This was followed by a report of the National AGM which was held in Bournemouth.

The mandates which the guild discussed at the meeting were organ transplants and modern day slavery. Chris Hicks carried the West Midlands banner.

The evening speaker was Fiona Lucas who with the aid of tea towels took the ladies around the world. The tea towels have been purchased from the many countries she has visited in her role as a girl guide leader.

On July 19, a group of members celebrated the planting of the guild's memorial tree in Leasowes Park.

Over the last few years the guild has lost some splendid and irreplaceable women so a tree was planted in their memory. After viewing the oak tree, the ladies then returned to the warden's hut for tea and cakes.

The next meeting is on September 19, when a harvest buffet will be enjoyed.

New friends are always welcome. Meetings are held in the Venue 2 room at the Zion Christian Centre, Halesowen at 7.30pm.

Early Black Country history recounted

Wordsley M TG

THE August meeting was opened by chairman for the day Wendy Lloyd who welcomed members and visitors.

The Federation report included the Harvest Lunch at Wollaston Village Hall on September 28 and the Christmas Workshop on November 19 at the Lusk Centre from 10am-4pm.

The Guild Lunch Club will meet on September 5 at The Lawnswood pub, Wordsley at noon for 12.30pm. The Christmas Lunch outing on Monday, December 5, will take place at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley and a coffee morning is arranged for September 26 at the home of Pat Caddick from 10.30am.

As Stan Boardman is now able to provide the entertainment in December, the proposed coffee morning to sell Comic Relief goods will have to be put back.

A day out at Boundary Mills is being arranged for November 3.

Wendy introduced Pat Green who gave a very interesting talk entitled 'Early History of the Black Country'.

Liz Hubbard gave the vote of thanks and Wendy gave details of the next meeting which will be on Monday September 19 when there will be a Harvest Table sale and a quiz.

All meetings are held at Wordsley Green Community Centre, the third Monday each month 10am.

For further information ring 01384 288219.

Attendance falls due to holidays and Olympics

Kingswinford TG

THERE were fewer members present than usual at the August meeting of Kingswinford TG. This may have been because people were beset with The Olympic Games but is more likely due to the holiday season.

Sheila Watts was welcomed back from her sojourn in Devon, and was soon busy telling ladies of venues for the next few luncheons and the details of the Christmas lunch.

Ron Gallivan told about The Amish, much of which was quite contrary to what people thought to be true. The talk was illustrated with delightful photographs.

He was thanked on the club's behalf by Joyce Major. Members were also told of the plans for the Harvest Supper in September.

Section leaders announced forthcoming events. The federation report was read by Enid Fennell. Mavis and Doreen offered to wash up.

Raffle prizes were won by Bessie Waters and Sue Wilson. Kath Turner had provided a beautiful pot plant for the chairman's table which she kindly gave as an extra raffle prize.

New season gets under way

THE Society's new season of talks begins on Thursday, September 8 at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley.

The speaker will be Anne Clark, a keen family historian and committee member of Friends of Dudley Archives.

Her illustrated talk will appeal to everyone interested in tracing their family trees. Newcomers and old hands are bound to pick up helpful tips and where to find those nug-

Sedgley Local History Society

gets on the internet and in archive centres. There will be a handout and an opportunity to chat to Anne about your project.

As usual visitors are invited to come along. Individual talks cost £1.

Annual membership of the society costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

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On the run for fish and chips

A CARER is hoping to follow in his father's footsteps on Sunday when he takes part in the Wolverhampton City Marathon in aid of care home where he works.

Scott Bates, 32, from Sedgley, has been the activities co-ordinator at Ditton Priors Care Centre, near Bridgnorth, since last September, and has always wanted to run the Carver's Wolverhampton City Marathon – just like his father Christopher Bates did in the early 1980s.

"I did a half-marathon about 10 years ago but it's been my ambition to run a full one – and to beat my dad's time of four hours 58 minutes," said Scott, who lives on The Ridgeway, with his wife Carrie, son Tobie, aged two, and six-month-old daughter Lu-anna.

With the money he raises, Scott aims to take the residents of the Shropshire care home on a trip to the Welsh coast to eat fish and chips by the seaside.

Scott has been in training since May.

Pet foxes are a first for Black Country vet



Paul Presley holds one of the foxes before it is microchipped

A VET was left 'foxed' when a client brought two unexpected animals to be microchipped.

Bonnie Leibowitch from White Cross Vets in Tividale couldn't believe it when a pair of foxes were brought in by Paul Presley from Blackheath.

The vet said: "My patient list showed that we had a Rupert and a Ruby booked in for microchipping, but I had to do a double take when I looked at my notes which showed they were foxes! It was definitely the first time our practice has ever handled foxes, let alone microchipped them."

Bonnie added: "Treating Rupert and Ruby was not only a first for me, but an incredibly moving experience to see how Paul cares for these two adorable friendly foxes."

"Unfortunately these two foxes cannot be released into the wild as they have toxoplasmosis, which is a common disease that is treatable with antibiotics but not curable and will stay with them for life. They were both incredibly tame and friendly."

Paul runs The Black Country Fox Sanctuary from his home with the help of friend Mandy Newton from Oldbury.

Famous footballers to attend gala night

MORE big names from the world of football have been added to a star-studded gala in honour of Dudley's most famous footballer, Duncan Edwards.

The Duncan Edwards Charity Gala will be held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on October 1, on what would have been the footballer's 80th birthday.

Special guests include former Albion player-manager Bryan Robson and his former Manchester United team mate Norman Whiteside. Ex-Baggies stars Bob Taylor, Darren Moore and James Chambers are also attending.

Edwards played for Manchester United and England but his promising career was cut short at the age of 21 when he died from his injuries after the 1958 Munich air crash. The disaster claimed the lives of 23 people died, including seven of Duncan's team mates. The proceeds will go towards The James Bulger Memorial Trust and Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets cost £45 and can be booked via the hospice website.

Driver who sped away from police at 105mph is spared jail

A MOTORIST who reached 105mph when pursued by police in the Black Country had been badly hurt in a hit and run accident just months earlier, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

David Bowers was at the wheel of a friend's VW Lupo when police saw him ignore a red traffic light turning on to the Birmingham New Road in Dudley.

The 21-year-old panicked when officers ordered him to stop and raced down the dual carriageway at more than twice the 40mph limit at around 2am on April 30.

Mr Justin Jarmola, prosecuting, said: "He disregarded the police sirens, accelerated and continued on his way."

Bowers hit 105 mph before careering over a police 'stinger' laid across the road by officers. He came to a halt as the tyres deflated.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said: "He had been for a McDonald's in Castle Gate and was driving a car that belonged to a friend who was a passenger in the vehicle. The defendant knew he was not insured for the car and panic set in when he realised the police wanted him to stop for questioning. He had been the victim of a hit and run accident last year and you might think that in those circumstances he would know what could happen when cars do not stop when told to. But it appears that he did not."

Mr Hamblett said Bowers had Asperger's and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Bowers, from Stourbridge Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and driving with neither appropriate licence nor insurance.

Judge Simon Ward said: "Usually in cases as bad as this the driver is locked up. When I saw that you had behaved in this way after being the victim of a hit and run accident which resulted in you having pins and plates in your legs, I assumed this was somebody who does not learn. Now I discover you have Asperger's and ADHD and that could be the reason why you did not appreciate the danger you were putting people in, so I will not send you to prison immediately."

Bowers was given eight months' jail suspended for two years and banned from driving for two years. He has a three-month night curfew and was told to do 60 hours unpaid work.

Tree-mendous work at the zoo

TAPIRS and capybara have benefited from a tree surgeon's work around Dudley Zoo's 40-acre site.

Contractors and a 100ft crane were brought in to cut down a large beech tree in the South American paddock.

Sealing the tree, a tree surgeon cut off the branches with a chain saw before the crane lowered them to the ground, where they were cut up for use across the site.

And some of the branches were craned back into the enclosure as tasty treats for the animals.

Head gardener at the Castle Hill attraction, Carl Stevens, said: "The work was part of a general maintenance programme."

"We also trimmed trees on the gelada baboon bank and red panda enclosure and cut back conifers around the sealions."

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Opera singer to join Songsters

POPULAR opera singer Lesley Garrett will be singing in Dudley as special guest of a local choir.

The soprano will be the guest at the King-swinford-based Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir's autumn concert to be held at Dudley Town Hall on September 24.

The concert will be compered by TV presenter Joanne Malin. Tickets costing £25 are available in advance on 01746 763850.

The 61-year-old Yorkshire-born singer has released more than 15 albums since her 1991 recordings debut and her 1995 album Soprano in Red received the Gramophone Award for Best-selling Classical Artist of the Year. Garrett was a featured artist on the platinum selling Perfect Day single released in aid of Children in Need.

She was a contestant in the first series of Strictly Come Dancing, a regular on Countdown and Loose Women. She was awarded a CBE in 2002 for services to music.

Martin rises to the Mont Blanc challenge



Mountain marathon man Martin Davis hit the heights

A FIREFIGHTER from Dudley tackled the steep slopes of the Alps in the gruelling Mont Blanc Marathon in France to raise funds for a Black Country charity.

Martin Davis raised raised £645 for the White House Cancer Support after battling 26 miles across the vertical terrain of Mont Blanc, a mountain which is nearly 16,000 feet high.

The 56-year-old from Kingswinford is a member of Green Watch at Dudley Fire Station, based on Burton Road.

Mr Davies said: "I'm a firefighter and used to training, but Mont Blanc's a tough call as it not only covers the usual 26 miles, it's also a vertical challenge and the climbing and descent are incredibly punishing.

"I was really lucky with the weather conditions, as the two previous days had seen torrential thunderstorms across Chamonix, but thankfully the day of the marathon it was bright and dry, just perfect."

Martin, of Kingswinford, decided to raise funds for WHCS after members of his family received support from the group. He also worked as a volunteer driver for the charity for three years.

He added: "This was third time I've done the Mont Blanc Marathon – the first year the weather was so bad I couldn't see a hand in front of me and last year it was so hot I failed to make the final mile within the time limit. But this year I finished well within the nine-hour overall cut off time and raised funds for WHCS, so I'm very happy."

WHCS Manager, Caroline Webb, said: "Martin trained incredibly hard for the Mont Blanc Marathon; it's a gruelling task and we're very appreciative that he raised such an incredible amount for our general funds."

White House Cancer Support, in Ednam Road, Dudley, is a drop-in centre for people affected by cancer and is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm.

Domino's delivering 25 new pizza jobs

PIZZA fans have a new option in Dudley with the opening of Domino's Pizza on Throne Road this week.

The pizza shop will be creating 25 new jobs for pizza makers, serving staff and delivery drivers.

£36.5m is handed over to fire up the 'Midlands Engine'

THE West Midlands Combined Authority has received its first multi-million pound payment from Government.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid announced the transfer of £36.5million directly to the new super-council through the region's devolution deal.

It is the first of payments due to total £1.1 billion over the next 30 years.

The West Midland Combined Authority (WMCA) was created in June and its 12 constituent members in-

clude Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall councils.

The super-council has taken control of transport, economic development, housing, skills and mental health services across the region.

Homes

WMCA chair, Solihull councillor Bob Sleigh, said: "The West Midlands is the manufacturing heartland of the UK and a dynamic exporter of high quality goods and services but we believe there is much economic growth that remains untapped.

"That's why this payment marks

the start of an exciting new era in which we will be far better equipped to build on our strengths, improve productivity and skills and deliver the transport infrastructure and new homes our region needs. It gives us the tools to drive forward the Midlands Engine, helping to unlock growth, jobs and prosperity and ultimately a better quality of life for the four million people of the West Midlands."

The new authority is set to be chaired by the region's first-ever directly-elected mayor, with elections due in May 2017. WMCA aims to see 1.9 million homes built and half a million jobs created.



Councillor Bob Sleigh

More homes on Brettell Lane

MORE than 60 new homes will be built on a business park in Brierley Hill, after council planners gave their approval.

The outline proposals for 61 properties at the Waterside Business Park off Brettell Lane have been given the green light.

Developers said the scheme will 'regenerate a derelict industrial site into much needed housing, whilst aiding the continual growth of the area'.

Brierley Hill's Councillor Rachel Harris said: "These are outline plans so we will wait and see what the more detailed proposals will be. So far all the development we've had along that stretch has been very nice. Hopefully the quality and calibre of this new estate will live up to the other developments. The only point of concern about further development along Brettell Lane is the impact on traffic conditions which are very congested already."

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Learning to play bridge from expert

A BRIDGE club is opening its doors to teach new members all about the traditional game.

Kingswinford Bridge Club, based at Saint Andrews United Reform Church on Kidderminster Road, Wall Heath, was formed more than 30 years ago but recently numbers have dwindled.

Club chairman Elspeth Burns, an English Bridge Union master player, is hosting lessons at £10 for the first five lessons to cover hall rental. She said: "Bridge has a reputation of being a complicated game but by learning and following a few simple rules, nearly everyone will be able to play at a reasonable level within a relatively short time."

There will be a free induction session at 7.30pm on Tuesday. Call 07802 473453 or (01384) 375672.

Major award for student

A STUDENT at Kingswinford's Crestwood School has won the prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

Alixandra Hooper was selected from hundreds and will be formally presented with her award in October after success in an exam and a final interview at Loughborough University. Teacher Giles Smith said: "Alix has shown great determination and a fantastic attitude toward her studies."

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD & WALL HEATH

Owners distraught after blaze wrecks restaurant

THE owners of a Wall Heath restaurant which was gutted by fire say they are 'absolutely devastated' but will rebuild the popular American-style eatery.

A total of 15 fire crews were called to deal with the blaze at Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath in the early hours of last Thursday. At the peak of the blaze there were 100 firefighters on the scene.

The restaurant, which opened in November, is in the former Kingfisher Club, a popular cabaret venue for many years which attracted many famous acts.

Firefighters remained on the scene all day Thursday after being called at 2.30am. More than 20 rooms at the adjoining Kingfisher Hotel were evacuated while the A449 was closed as a result of the blaze.

The owners of Hickory's, which has five branches in total, said they were distraught for their team and the local community.

They said in a statement: "We are absolutely devastated about the news of the fire at our Wall Heath restaurant both for our team and the local community. Thankfully no one has been injured."

"Firefighters have done an incredible job fighting the blaze and we are just

waiting to speak to the police and fire investigation experts to establish the cause. We'd like to thank people for all their support so far."

Crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were the first to arrive at the smokehouse, around five minutes after the call at 2.30am. They were joined by 13 more appliances as smoke billowed out of the roof of the USA barbecue-style restaurant. Firefighters used a hydraulic platform as they battled to bring the blaze under control.

Station commander Russ Gauden said the crews had carried out 'active firefighting' to try to save the landmark Grade II listed hotel.

He added: "It's an iconic building. Lots of people have met here and it's a very special place for the community."



The Hickory's Smokehouse restaurant at the height of the devastating blaze Picture by Patricia Gooding

Super-slim Vicky to help others

"I wanted to live, not just exist", so says super-slimmer Vicky Billingham, who is starting her own Slimming World club in Kingswinford.

She decided it was time to change her life after the simplest of daily tasks would leave her breathless as she tipped the scales at 27st, a size 32.

The 43-year-old mother-of-two decided to bin the takeaways and ditch crisps and cakes for a healthier diet with lots of fruit and veg. She also joined a slimming group for support, she achieved her target weight of 10st 4lb and is now a size 12.

"I feel so much younger and fitter now, I feel like I'm living my life," she said.

Her Slimming World meetings will be at Dingle Community Centre in Madeley Road, at 5pm and 7pm from Tuesday.

Cadets' new bus quest

AIR cadets in Kingswinford face the heart-breaking task of starting their fundraising again after thieves stole their minibus – just three weeks after it was bought using £15,000 that it had taken the youngsters four years to raise.

The 17-seater Ford Transit essential for the Kingswinford 2488 Squadron Air Training Corps was stolen from their HQ behind the Standhills Road Medical Centre.

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£32m overhaul scheme for trading estate is passed

Zoo return trip for baby Ciana a year on



Mum Lisa Price-Patel with daughters Jacie and baby Ciana on their recent VIP return trip to Dudley Zoo

A ONE-YEAR-OLD girl was welcomed back to Dudley Zoo as a special birthday guest with her family after nearly being born at the Castle Hill attraction a year ago.

Ciana Lucia Patel visited the zoo with her mother, father and sister on Thursday to celebrate her first birthday. On the same day in 2015, Ciana's mother Lisa Price-Patel, from Wednesbury, gave birth to her at Walsall Manor Hospital, after going into labour at the zoo whilst on a family day out.

Lisa was with her six-year-old daughter Jacie Patel and husband Rajesh at the zoo.

Mum-of-five, Lisa, aged 39, said: "I had no pain and no indication until there was a gush when we reached the top. "I think it must have been the walk up the zoo hill that did it, but I've always had quick labours, so all I could think about was that I was going to give birth on the zoo."

They left the zoo at 1.30pm, heading to Walsall Manor Hospital where Ciana Lucia Patel arrived at 3.22pm.

Restaurants to be axed as chain closes branches

THE struggling owner of Frankie & Benny's and Chiquito is closing 33 restaurants 'immediately', affecting up to 1,000 workers but the group says its West Midlands restaurants are safe.

The Restaurant Group, which has around 500 sites nationwide, said it was closing 14 Frankie & Benny's, 11 Chiquito outlets and eight other sites.

The popular group has Chiquito restaurants at Bentley Bridge in Wednesfield, at Walsall Waterfront and Dudley's Castlegate Park. Frankie & Benny's is also at Castlegate Park, as well as Merry Hill shopping centre, Walsall's Crown

Wharf and Kidderminster's Weavers Wharf.

The company's upmarket Brunning & Price pubs include the Inn at Shipley, the Oakley Arms at Brewood and the Red Lion at Longdon Green.

The Restaurant Group said none of its West Midlands sites, including seven in Birmingham, were included in the closure plan. Around 1,000 workers nationwide will be affected, although it is understood that the company will redeploy the majority.

The Restaurant Group booked pre-tax losses of £22.5 million for the first half of the year.

AMBITIOUS £32 million plans to overhaul a historic trading estate in Tipton and create more than 1,500 jobs have been approved by council bosses.

Proposals to flatten the majority of the existing buildings on the Vaughan Trading Estate in Sedgley Road East were unveiled in April. Now plans have been given the go-ahead after Sandwell Council planning committee voted unanimously in favour of it at a planning meeting at the town's Council House.

A planning application submitted to Sandwell Council by developer Dudley Unit Trust says overhauling the site would create 1,510 posts – 944 on site.

Bosses behind the scheme aim to create 430,000 sq ft of work space on land neighbouring the Thomas Dudley Foundry and CAB Autos.

Councillor Ian Jones, who worked on

By Nick Humphreys

the former Vono site in the 1970s, believes the major investment will be a big boost to the area.

He said: "Anything that will bring employment and upgrade the estate I think should be welcomed.

"I used to work at the site and it's been in desperate need of an upgrade for some considerable time.

Investment

"It's very pleasing that there is going to be investment going into that area, because it was home to a lot of local employers and provided jobs for an awful lot of people in the area before.

"You look at companies like CAB Autos, and you can tell how successful they are by the fact that the car park is always rammed. It will be good to have other businesses to supplement them in the area.

"Anything that can help the site become more usable and even better is something I welcome. Now I really hope that it gets delivered on time and within budget."

The planning report for the site states: "The proposed development has the potential to provide for 944 full-time equivalent jobs on site. These direct jobs will generate additional employment through supply chain and employee expenditure multiplier effects.

"It is expected in this instance 94 jobs at the local level and 472 at the regional, or national level, will also be created.

"It is believed that the jobs filled by the occupied development and taking into account the multiplier effects would generate a total of around £235 million Gross Value Added for the wider economy in the long term."

The Vono company – an acronym of Vaughan Only, No Other – was established in 1896. The bedding company was at one time Tipton's single biggest employer.

CPR bid to save ex-Villa player's life

DOCTORS battled in vain for 35 minutes in a bid to save ex-Aston Villa footballer Dalian Atkinson after he was Tasered by police, a coroner was told.

Mr Atkinson was given cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford, after officers Tasered him in the early hours of August 15. Paramedics were called by police after the incident involving the 48-year-old former striker, which took place in the Telford street where he grew up.

At the opening of the inquest in Shrewsbury last week, coroner's officer Julie Hartbridge said West Mercia Police officers were called at 1.37am to a 'report of concern for safety' in Meadow Road, Trench, Telford.

She told coroner John Ellery: "Shortly after being given Taser, Dalian Atkinson became unresponsive. At hospital, following 35 minutes of CPR, he was confirmed deceased."

The death of the retired player, of Holly Road, Little Dawley, is subject to a criminal investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. The inquest was adjourned for three months.

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Free days to explore historic buildings



Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath will be throwing open its doors for a series of events during Heritage Open Days

PEOPLE are invited to discover historic venues that are right on their doorsteps for free during the Heritage Open Days from September 8 to 11.

During the event, buildings that are normally closed to the public will have their doors opened, while other buildings that already open to the public waive their admission charge.

Churchill Forge, near Hagley, is just one of the venues participating in the Heritage Open Days weekend. The forge, located in the village between Stourbridge and Kidderminster, is one of the very last surviving waterwheel powered forges in the country.

There is lots going on in the heart of the Black Country at Cradley Heath's Haden Hill with Proms in the Park on September 11 from 2pm. Tours of historic Haden Hill Park take place on September 8 and 9. The Best's Angels exhibition of Victorian photographs is on show at Haden Hill House Museum on all the Heritage Days and Haden Old Hall has an open weekend (September 10 & 11).

The Black Country Living Museum is running behind the scenes tours of its stores on September 10. Railway and theatre memorabilia plus props from ghost tours will be on show at

the Castle Hotel on Castle Hill from September 9 to 11.

St Peter's Church in Kinver is open to visitors on September 10, the Quaker Meeting House in Scotts Road, Stourbridge, is open September 10 and 11, and there will be 3pm tower tours at St John's Church, Hagley, on September 10 and 11.

Friends of Lye & Wollescote Cemetery will lead guided walks around the cemetery on September 10. The History in the Headstones walks are at 10:30am and 12:30pm.

See the Heritage Open Days website for further details.



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Brexit – get on with it, says Bill

UKIP Leadership hopeful Bill Etheridge has warned a German minister to 'keep his nose of UK affairs' after saying the UK must pay the price for Brexit.

West Midlands Euro MP Bill Etheridge, who is also a Dudley councillor, has criticised comments made by German economy minister Sigmar Gabriel about Britain's exit from the European Union.

Gabriel described Brexit as a "psychological problem" and said that it was a "huge problem politically" for the EU. Commenting on Gabriel's statements, MEP Mr Etheridge said it was time for the Government to stop backsliding and to "put Brexit at the top of the agenda."

He said: "The Government should stop dilly dalling and pull its finger out. It is time for Britain to be a sovereign, free and democratic nation away from the tentacles of the interfering EU."

Kick off with a cup classic



The football programme from the FA Cup clash between Baggies and Blues in 1931

A RARE programme from the 1931 FA Cup final between West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City is set to go under the hammer.

The programme was offered to Fieldings Auctioneers of Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge, during a valuation day and is expected to fetch between £200 and £300 on Saturday.

The game was Albion's third FA Cup triumph as they defeated Blues 2-1 in the all West Midlands affair at Wembley in front of a crowd of more than 92,000.

It is believed the programme will be particularly attractive to collectors due to its relatively good condition.

Two commemorative cup final handkerchiefs were also handed in, though these are more common.

Andrew Mayall, from Fieldings, said the programme's age made it interesting.

Travel chaos caused by rail signal fault

BANK Holiday travellers faced chaos on the trains as the main line between Wolverhampton and Birmingham was brought to a standstill for more than two hours.

A signalling fault brought services to a halt heading towards Birmingham from around 9.30am.

Passengers were able to use their tickets on buses and the Midland Metro.

A diversionary service was put on from around 11am but did not stop at Sandwell and Dudley station, meaning long delays for passengers trying to get about on Bank Holiday Monday.

The main line reopened at noon but disruption continued as services returned to normal.

Coroner is writing to health bosses after suicide in hospital

STAFF at a psychiatric hospital 'failed to respond to obvious risks' regarding a patient who killed himself, an inquest heard.

Glen Jordan, aged 39, from Cannock, was found hanged at Bushey Fields Hospital, in Dudley, around 2am on April 24.

Following a two-day inquest, a jury returned a verdict stating that they believe Mr Jordan hanged himself after staff saw a bag in his room, but failed to recognise it as a risk.

The first day of the inquest at Black Country Coroners Court heard how Mr Jordan, a part-time data engineer, had a history of depression

following the loss of his mother and break up of a relationship. He had previously tried to commit suicide last year and on another occasion six months before that.

At the Black Country Coroner's Court in Oldbury, the conclusion was recorded as misadventure with a failure in medical intervention, namely the failure to respond to the risk of self-harm.

Lisa Bowers, who has a son with Glen, said: "Glen admitted himself to Bushey Fields because he didn't want to die. He was having suicidal thoughts and thought that voluntarily admission was the best way to get the right help to recover."

The court heard how Mr Jordan lived in a car-

avan following the breakup of his relationship two years ago.

While in hospital, he was checked upon hourly. On the evening before he died, he had spoken to a nurse who said he seemed in 'bright spirits'. He was found hanged in his room, following a check at around 2am.

For the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership, Stuart Knowles said: "I don't want to underplay this case but it does not show a lack of care from staff. This wasn't a case where a blade or a bottle of pills had been left in his room, it was a strap attached to a bag."

Coroner Zafar Siddique said: "I will be writing to the trust in an effort to prevent future deaths as a result of something like this."

Supermarket is well under way

AN EAGERLY anticipated new supermarket is taking shape on the site of former landmark pub in Dudley.

The latest Aldi supermarket will open on the site of the demolished King Arthur pub, next to Birmingham New Road.

In recent weeks work has progressed quickly, with the structure of the build and the 94-space car park taking shape, alongside promotional signs being displayed outside the premises.

A spokesperson for Aldi said the store would be open this autumn.

The store is to employ 35 staff and six deputy managers with apprentices taken on too.

It comes as part of a drive by Aldi to increase its presence in the Black Country with a total of 140 new jobs expected at around 15 new stores.

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Quiz night tests locals

A BLACK Country quiz night is being held tomorrow (Friday) for Halas Homes which cares for people with learning disabilities. The quiz is at The Meeting Place at the charity's base in Wessall Road, Halesowen, at 7pm. It costs £5 per person and places can be booked on 0121 550 8778. The event includes entertainment from Billy Spakemon and Brendon Hawthorne.



The start of the Staffs & Worcs Canal at Great Haywood



The old Newbridge Boat Co sign, part of the TTHC exhibition



Henwood Lane, a quiet country road, before the canal came along



Compton Lock, where the canal was started



Aldersley Junction, where the Birmingham Canal Navigations linked

Volunteers engineer First Cut re-enactment

THIS weekend, canal engineer James Brindley will be returning to Compton. Or at least a member of the Tettenthal Transport Heritage Centre team, dressed as him will.

It will be part of a re-enactment of the historic start of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal at Compton Lock on Sunday (September 4).

It was in the first week in September 1766, that the first spade went into the ground, the First Cut, near the junction of Compton Road and Henwood Lane, just inside the Wolverhampton boundary. This was to be the first major

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

transport link across the country, and the stretch through Tettenthal to Compton was to be the highest level of the canal, and Compton Lock, the first descent towards the Severn, was to set the width of all subsequent locks.

Brindley had made his name designing the Duke of Bridgewater's canal in Lancashire, and was to head a team building the Trent & Mersey and then the Staffs & Worcs from Stourport, on the Severn, to Great Haywood and the River Trent, opening up the country to Black Country coal and iron goods, via the Birmingham Canal

Navigations which linked to the new canal in 1772 at Aldersley. This year is also the 300th anniversary of Brindley's birth, but ill-health meant he never saw the revolution in transport he created.

The canals were dug by hand, with shovel and wheelbarrow, and the re-enactment will also be a tribute to those many labourers, those 'navvies', who toiled to build the marvellous engineering feat which is the British canal network.

The re-enactment will take place from 11am at Compton Lock, and 'Mr Brindley' will then lead his team along the towpath of 'his' canal the 800 yards to the Heritage Centre at Tettenthal Station, to unveil an exhibition about 'The First Cut'.



Canal engineer James Brindley

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Volunteer appeal as town's historic church opens again

VOLUNTEERS are urged to come forward following the re-opening of a landmark Dudley church after 14 years of campaigning by the St John's Preservation Group.

The group is seeking help as they aim to reopen the historic church in Kates Hill to the public seven days a week. It comes after they secured the lease to the Grade II-listed building in July.

Deb Brownlee, chairman of the group, said: "We want people to be able to visit regularly, feeling comfortable and welcome, and do 'restoration watch' and see how their donations are being used.

"We need reception, tea makers, flower arrangers, security, tour guides, cleaners, litter pickers and path sweepers/weeders, fundraising helpers and IT savvy people for a Community Information point.

Post office branch to get revamp

THE post office will modernise its Saltwells Road branch, which will relaunch at 1pm on September 20.

The branch will then be open from 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Saturday with selected post office services available during shop opening hours from 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 2pm on Sundays.

The branch will open an addition five hours on Saturday afternoon.

The new-look Post Office will offer a wide range services, including international parcels, special delivery, local collect and home shopping returns.

Customers will be able to make cash withdrawals from a Post Office Card Account, send funds abroad using Moneygram, pay bills, buy holiday money, get insurance, mortgages and savings and top up mobile phones. Car tax will be added to the list of services in branch.

The post office will close at 5.30pm on September 7 for the refurbishment to take place.

Rota

"We are asking supporters to Take the Pledge and commit to just two hours a month - together we can achieve this rota and just giving that small amount of time will make a big difference to the project."

"People can fill in the form and scan, post or bring it back to us and give copies to friends, family and colleagues also."

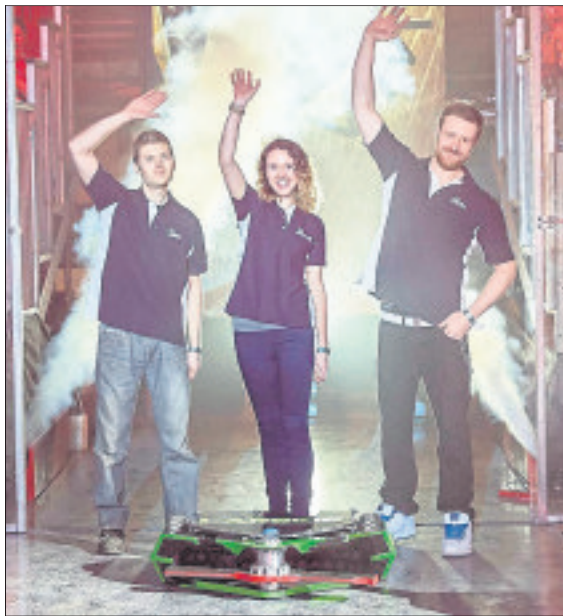
The group aim to use the church for six Anglican services a year, with plans of creating a visitor centre, cafe, gift shop and costumed guided tours.

The 2.5 acres of graveyard has also been developed to double as a nature reserve with additional land at the side to be extended to create trails, pools and a community orchard.

The lease was completed on July 27 - exactly 176 years to the day when the church was opened in 1840.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the group on 07871195042 or by emailing savestjohnchurch@hotmail.co.uk

Dudley student was Robot Wars finalist



Sheryl Prior with her Team Carbide co-engineers in TV's Robot Wars

A TEAM from the Black Country came runners up in the final of Robot Wars 2016.

Three former Pontins' Bluecoats were crowned champions of the TV show on Sunday but the bostin' boffins Team Carbide still managed to get to the final two.

Team Carbide's robot was complete with a vicious blade that spins at up to 2,300rpm. It was put together by David Moulds, a robotics engineer for Cadbury, Sam Smith, an aerospace engineer for Rolls Royce, and former Dudley College student Sheryl Prior. She lives in Wombourne and works for JLR at the i54 business park in Wolverhampton.

The show's winners, Apollo, said they could not believe their luck after winning the show, which was rebooted this year after 12 years. The trio, who met at a Pontins holiday camp, were presented the prestigious trophy by hosts Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon.

The new series on BBC Two follows teams of engineers doing battle against other robots and house robots in a special arena, and saw 40 groups battle it out over six episodes.

The final saw the six robots still standing - Carbide, Shockwave, TR2, Apollo, Pulsar and Thor - compete in two group battles, each with three robots. One loser from each fight was then eliminated.

The four surviving robots then faced off in the head-to-head and in the grand final Apollo faced Carbide and emerged triumphant.

Messages in parks on dog mess menace

A CAMPAIGN to shame dog owners who are failing to clean up after their pets has got under way in Quarry Bank.

Dudley Council has launched a campaign in and around Stevens Park following complaints raised by the public. It includes a pathway which links Thorns Road to Park Road.

The council has been stencilling the floor with distinctive warning signs to remind people of the importance of a cleaning up after their dogs.

It leaves a spray-painted warning on the pavement in key areas, which is not permanent and washes off over time.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "I'm sure the vast majority of people love their community as much as we do and clean up after their pets.

"People have a right to walk along the street and play in parks without fear of treading in disgusting mess left by dogs. We would rather people cleaned up after their dogs than us having to prosecute them.

"The stencils do not permanently mark the pavements so are environmentally friendly and hopefully will be a good reminder for people."

People face fines of up to £1,000 and prosecution through the courts if they fail to properly dispose of their animal's excrement.

Travellers' caravans back on Tividale Park

TRAVELLERS returned to an Old-bury park just five days after an encampment was removed from the site.

Around a dozen caravans descended on Tividale Park on Friday. It comes as West Midlands Police issued a section 61 to remove an encampment from the park the weekend before.

A Sandwell Council spokesperson said: "We are aware and are going through the legal process to have them moved."



Mill Bank, Sedgley, DY3 1SN

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Chitty Chitty Bang lands
See Page 25



Busted are back

See Page 25



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WEDNESDAY 28 Dec (SALES!)**

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The fully guided tours will shine a light on the production process and reveal how everything fits together. With full scale set reconstructions, preserved props and costumes to the secrets behind stunts and special effects, this is a rare chance to step behind the camera and into the exciting world of telly.

Groups will experience the much-loved surroundings of the Dingles, Bernice's Salon, Smithy Cottage and The Woolpack sets, hear fascinating facts on some of the soap's biggest storylines and get the gossip and stories from the studio floor as a guide takes them on a unique tour.

We also make a visit to historic York

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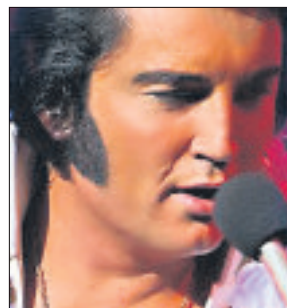
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Sunny Afternoon



Tuesday - Saturday, Sep 10, various times
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
The best new West End musical of 2015 has Ryan O'Connell as Ray Davies in this celebration of The Kinks. Visit www.atgtickets.com/venues/new-alexandra-theatre-birmingham/

The King Is Back



Saturday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
The only British winner of the World-wide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist contest in Memphis, Ben Portsmouth will be getting the King's fans all shook up. Visit www.barclaycardarena.co.uk/whats-on/the-king-is-back

Back:N:Black



Friday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
A Swiss all-female band pay tribute to Aussie rockers AC/DC, so hit the Highway To Hell with the Ladies from Hades. Support from 2nd Gear and Live And Let Rock. Visit therobin.co.uk

Paul McCaffrey



Friday, 8pm
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge
The Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club celebrates its second year at the Enville Street pub venue with one of BBC3's Impractical Jokers topping the bill. Visit www.facebook.com/fitzoflaughter/

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Wolverhampton Bassline Gathering at Fixxion Warehouse
Tomorrow - Sun,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4LD.
Call 07562 619947

ROCK & METAL

The Notorious Brothers
Tonight,
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL.
Call 0121 486 1300

Elvis - Gordon Hendricks & The Passionettes
Tonight, £10
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

1950's Rock n Roll Night with DebraJune & The Rockin' Tunes
Tonight,
Knowle Royal British Legion,
Solihull, B93 9LF.
Call 01564 773253

LIVE/WIRE - The AC/DC Show
Tonight, £14
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Teenage Casket Company
Tonight,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Back:N:Black
Tonight, £12.50 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Glitter Band founder members John Rossall and Harvey Ellison
Tomorrow, £8 - £36
The RoadHouse, Kings Norton,
Birmingham, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

BREAK STUFF // A Night of Nu-Metal Nostalgia
Tomorrow,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

John Emil live at The Victoria
Tomorrow
The Victoria, Walsall,
WS1 2AA.
Call 01922 635866

Mainly Madness
Tomorrow, £11 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Bootleg Sixties
Tomorrow - Sun, £17.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Who
Mon,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1PA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Rock of Ages
Wed - Thu, £12.50 - £18.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 0121 784 281281

Sticky Fingers
Thu,
The O2 Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

The King Is Back
Tomorrow,
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

POP

LANY
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

FLARES 70S & 80S!
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

The Southmartins (tribute to The Beautiful South & The Housemartins)
Tomorrow,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Arcadia + Special Guests
Tomorrow, £5
The Sugarmill,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

The Jeeps
Tue, £14.95
The Jam House, Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Eleanor Friedberger
Tue,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Traditional Irish Music
Mon,
The Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Roy Harper on 75th birthday tour!
Wed
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

JAZZ, SOUL, FUNK R'N'B & REGGAE

The stars from The Commitments
Tomorrow,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Top Drawer Soul Night
Tomorrow, £5 - £6
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Bruck Up
Tomorrow - Sun,
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0121 444 2081

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue
The Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Beres Hammond & Maxi Priest
Tue,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

CLASSICAL

Bournville String Orchestra
Tomorrow,
The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

COMEDY

Sprinkle of Glitter Presents Louise LIVE
Tonight
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 359 9444

Paul McCaffrey - Fitz of Laughter
Tonight,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Somewhere Under The Rainbow
Tomorrow,
The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

THEATRE

The Simon and Garfunkel Story
Tonight,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Sunny Afternoon
Tue - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Meetings Greetings and Partings
Tonight,
The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

The Vicar of Dibley
Tonight - Thu,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7SA.
Call 0121 707 1874

Joe Longthorne
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

CATS
Mon - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

ARTS, CULTURE & MISC EVENTS

Bob Parks: And The Heavens Cried
Tue,
Grand Union, Minerva Works,
Birmingham, B5 5RS.
Call 0121 643 9079

Dementia Cafe
Today,
Soho House, Birmingham,
B18 5LB. Call 0121 554 9122

Turning to See Curator Talk
Today, £5
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Closing Bonfire Party for Edible Eastside
Tonight,
Edible Eastside, Birmingham,
B5 5RS. Call 01216 431378

Wild Storytelling - Lightmoor
Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 193
Abbey Foregate, 01743 284280,
Fri 02 Sep
<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/events/2016/06/10/wild-storytelling-lightmoor?instance=0>

Information Lecture: Help and Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno Groening
Tomorrow, Free
The Polish Millennium Centre,
Birmingham, B5 5PH.
Call 0121 643 3577

Whittington Countryside and Craft Fair
Tomorrow,
Bit End Field, Whittington,
WS14 9LH.
See <http://www.whittingtonandfisherwick.org.uk>

'Andrew Downes: A Portrait'
Tomorrow,
Birmingham Cathedral, B3 2QB.
Call 0121 262 1840

Cheeki Monkeys Pop Up Baby & Children's Market
Tomorrow
Arden Hall, Birmingham,
B36 9PB.
Call 0121 747 6503

Croome's Hidden Heritage: Hare Krishna weekend
Tomorrow
Croome, High Green, WR8 9DW.
Call 01905 371006

Free Lantern Making Workshop
Tomorrow,
Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park,
Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Free art and craft activities on the patio
Tomorrow,
Oriol Davies Gallery, The Park,
Newtown, SY16 2NZ.
Call 01686 625041

Ponds discovery project
Tomorrow,
Brockhampton Estate, Grooms
Brockhampton Mews,
Brockhampton Park, Bringsty,
WR6 5TB.
Call 01885 488099

Knitting workshop with Dee Hardwicke
Tomorrow,
Brockhampton Estate, Grooms
Brockhampton Mews,
Brockhampton Park, Bringsty,
WR6 5TB.
Call 01885 488099

Cellar Tour
Tomorrow,
Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield,
WS13 7AD.
Call 01543 306260

Newcomen Engine in Steam
Tomorrow - Sun,
The Black Country Living
Museum, Dudley, DY1 4SQ.
Call 01215 579643

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Sun,
El Tablao de Amantia (located in Amantia's basement),
Birmingham, B2 5RS.
Call 01216433647

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Sun,
Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, SY4 4TW.
Call 01743 708123

Great Fire of London Week
Today - Sun,
Blakesley Hall Museum, Birmingham, B25 8RN.
Call 0121 464 2193

Vandal vs Visionary talk
Tue,
Croome, High Green, WR8 9DW.
Call 01905 371006

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Giddy up! Busted are on track again



From left, Matt Willis, Charlie Simpson and James Bourne are back together for a gig at Wolverhampton Racecourse

MATT Willis has a pretty simple requirement of fans at Busted's Wolverhampton Racecourse gig: "We want them to lose their minds."

His band will line-up on Saturday night after a day of racing. Willis and bandmates James Bourne and Charlie Simpson will play for 90 minutes with hits like Year 3000, What I Go To School For, Crashed The Wedding, Air Hostess, and many more. "We've played a few racecourse gigs during the summer," he says. "They

came around at the last minute and we were like 'yeah, cool, book 'em'. We've done a few, the people are always up for a good time. They've been out on the lash all day watching the races. Then they want to see us come on so that they can lose their minds to a rock band. It's great fun."

The story of Busted MK II is, of course, the story of the in-out, in-out, shake-it-all-about manoeuvres of Charlie, meanwhile Matt and James got together with McFly for the mega-successful McBusted.

Matt says: "With McBusted, don't

get me wrong, it was great to be part of it and it was a bit of a laugh but it didn't feel like our band. Busted is where it's at. This is the band that me and James started when we were kids of 16 in our bedrooms."

"Charlie actually said yes to coming back before McBusted happened. But by the time he'd agreed, we'd already booked that tour. We kept in touch to see how he felt over the next year and it went from there. Then we all decided to go in the studio together and once we'd written new songs, it felt great."



Returning to the Hippodrome after starring in panto

Back with a Bang Bang

BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome is motoring into autumn with a revival of family favourite musical Chitty Bang Bang. The West End blockbuster, based on a story by 007 author Ian Fleming, continues a run of hit shows at the Hippodrome following its bumper summer with Mama Mia!, which ends of Saturday.

The car is the star but the flying automobile is likely to be upstaged by a top-notch cast including Any Dream Will Do winner Lee Mead as Caractacus Potts and Carrie Hope Fletcher from Les Misérables as Truly Scrumptious.

Comic support will come from Phill Jupitus and Claire Sweeney as Baron and Baroness Bomburst, while the creepy Childcatcher will be played by former Jersey Boy Matt Gillet.

Get ready for a colourful spectacular featuring such songs as Hushabye Mountain, Me Ol' Bamboo and Chu-Chu Face and, of course, the famous theme song.

Essex-born Lee Mead first found fame via Sir Andrew Lloyd-Webber's TV talent show to find a new star to take on the title role in the 2007 West End revival of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

He has become one of the West End's most successful leading men with roles in Wicked, Legally Blonde The Musical as well as releasing several albums and enjoying successful concert tours. His is now best known as Lofty Chiltern in BBC TV drama Casualty. He is returning to the Hippodrome after starring as Aladdin in last year's panto.

Soul sister gets in the musical habit

CHART-TOPPING singer Alexandra Burke is coming back to Birmingham in a new version of hit musical comedy Sister Act, directed and choreographed by Strictly's Craig Revel Horwood.

Alexandra, who won The X Factor in 2008 and had a hit with Hallelujah, will be praising again as a club singer Deloris Van Cartier, hiding from gangsters in a convent, who adds a little soul into the nuns' choir.

The London-born actress wowed fans as Rachel Marron when The Bodyguard came on tour to Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Sister Act is at the New Alexandra Theatre from September 12 to 17.

It's a walk on the Wilde side for Cathy

MONA Lisa and Band of Gold star Cathy Tyson takes on the role of the formidable Lady Bracknell when a new production of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest comes to Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

Directed by Nikolai Foster and staged from September 9 to 24, Wilde's comedy of manners exposes the hypocrisies of late Victorian society. Cathy said: "Lady Bracknell is so well known. I've played Ophelia, I've played Cleopatra and lots of other famous characters but people have a really personal view on Lady Bracknell. They quote lines back at you!"

Greg is down for another Civic night

COMEDY fans have another chance to see Shropshire comic Greg Davies, who has added an extra Wolverhampton date on his UK tour but be prepared for a long wait.

The Man Down star is performing a further show at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall, one of two nights at the venue on December 8 and 9, 2017. Spokesman Jonn Penney said: "Tickets are flying out for next year's Greg Davies show, so we're delighted to be adding an extra date."

Tickets are available at www.wolvescivic.co.uk website. Davies was also recently seen in Dave's comedy panel show Taskmaster.

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Rags to Riches: Ultimate Life, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Jason Stevens is busy running his grandfather's foundation, while also having to fend off lawsuits from his extended family and lament a fleeing lover. When an inherited journal magically sends him back to 1941, it provides an unparalleled opportunity for him to witness the true rags-to-riches story of his late grandfather. Drama, starring Logan Bartholomew and Peter Fonda. (2013)

TUESDAY

Truth and Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two former best friends and current enemies suspect each other of sending anonymous messages that threaten to expose their secrets. However, when they realise neither are behind it, the teenagers team up to investigate the source. Drama, starring Dina Meyer, Emily Tennant and Keenan Tracey. (2015)



Possession, Thursday, BBC1, 11.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of James Bond, ITV, 10.40pm
Documentary examining the making of the James Bond films, featuring contributions from cast and crew members of the 26 movies made over the past 50 years, including 007 actors Daniel Craig, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan. (2012)

THURSDAY

Possession, BBC1, 11.30pm
Rival academics get embroiled in the hunt for proof that Victorian poets Randolph Henry Ash and Christabel LaMotte were having an affair – but their rivalry is tempered by a seemingly irresistible attraction between them. Drama from playwright Neil LaBute, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. (2002)

FRIDAY

Doc Hollywood, ITV, 10.45pm
An arrogant doctor on his way to California causes an accident in a rural South Carolina town and is sentenced to community service at the local hospital. Initially desperate to leave, he gradually comes to appreciate a slower pace of life. Comedy, starring Michael J Fox. (1991)

Looking to make the nation proud once again

The 2016 Olympic Games will live long in the memory, particularly for Team GB's athletes who achieved their highest medal haul for 108 years – even surpassing the extraordinary home Games in London 2012. And now it's time for Britain's Paralympians to do the business in Brazil.

Tonight, host Clare Balding is back, along with The Last Leg's Adam Hills, at the famous Maracana Stadium in Rio for what promises to be a spectacular ceremony to mark the start of the 15th Paralympic Games.

Expect a Brazilian carnival atmosphere to accompany the athletes' parade, which will be the first chance to catch a glimpse of the Team GB athletes who are hoping to top the 120 medals they won at London 2012.

The team is packed full of reigning Paralympic, world and European champions, and expectations are high – can the athletes build on the 27 golds won by Team GB in Rio a few weeks ago? Tonight, Balding and Hills will be joined by a number of British medal prospects.

Swimmer Ellie Simmonds will be competing at her third Paralympics, having won two gold medals at Beijing in 2008, then adding two more plus a silver and bronze in 2012.

Meanwhile, 23-year-old world record breaking wheelchair racer 'Hurricane' Hannah Cockroft, has been dominant in the T34 class for years and will also be looking to add to her two golds from London.

Johnny Peacock nearly died from meningitis aged five, but was a Paralympic gold medalist at 18. Now the sprinter has his sights firmly set on retaining his 100m title in Rio.

David Weir tried all manner of sports before falling for wheelchair racing.

Now the 'Weirwolf' will be attending his fifth Games, having made his debut in Atlanta in 1996.

He won Britain's only track and field golds in Beijing before his four golds in London.

And finally there's cycling supremo and former swimmer Sarah Storey, Great Britain's most decorated female Paralympian, having won 11 Gold,

eight Silver and three Bronze medals across six Paralympic Games.

But aside from these more well known athletes, Balding and Hills will also be profiling several up and coming stars ready to shine for Team GB in Rio.

Libby Clegg recently broke the world record in the T11 200m at the Anniversary Games last year, and Kadeena Cox will be competing in both the cycling and the athletics this year.

Lee Pearson will be looking to add to his 10-gold medal haul in the equestrian, alongside 67-year-old five-time gold medalist Anne Dunham.

Meanwhile, Gordon Reid – who won the first ever Wimbledon men's wheelchair singles and doubles this year – will be competing in the tennis along with doubles partner Alfie Hewett.

Unfortunately, the build up to these Games has been plagued with problems. However, as with the Olympics, the organisers will hope that once the action does get under way, the athletes will provide the same amount of entertainment and inspiration as they did in 2012.



Paralympics 2016: Opening Ceremony Live, Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Cold Feet
ITV, 9pm

Where would the careers of John Thomson, James Nesbitt, Fay Ripley, Hermione Norris and Robert Bathurst be without Cold Feet? All of them owe the much-loved comedy drama a debt of gratitude because it turned them into major small screen stars. And that's perhaps why they agreed to reassemble for this reunion of their characters, 13 years after the original run came to an end. This run, which is written by the show's creator, Mike Bullen, will reveal what has happened to Adam, who was left to raise his son Matthew alone following the death of his soulmate Rachel, whether Pete and Jenny lived happily ever after, and what became of David and Karen, who had gone their separate ways.

TUESDAY

Motherland
BBC2, 10pm

The latest comedy pilot from the New on Two season looks at the funny side of being a parent and follows characters navigating the trials and traumas of middle-class motherhood. We meet the Alpha Mums' headed by Amanda (Lucy Punch) who is very much the queen bee – everything in her life

is organised, clean and sparkly. At the other end of the spectrum there is Liz (Diane Morgan) who's totally chaotic and feels the kids should enjoy free expression. Somewhere in the middle is Julia (Anna Maxwell-Martin), who, when she forgets it's the school holidays, realises her organisational skills are nowhere near the level of the Alpha Mums'. Also in the mix is Kevin (Paul Ready Utopia) – a stay-at-home dad, who rather than fighting against that, is embracing it with gusto – to the irritation of the others.

WEDNESDAY

The Great British Bake Off
BBC1, 8pm

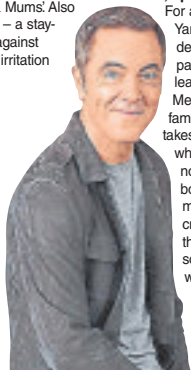
As bread week arrives, the remaining home-bakers must face three tough tasks set by Paul Hollywood. For the signature bake, the contestants make a sweet dough with a twist, and in the technical they must face baking without an oven. Finally, for the showstopper, they are challenged to use three different flours to create a huge centrepiece and impress judges Paul and Mary. Meanwhile, Mel heads to Germany to find out how a baker and a few hundred

dumplings saved his small town from the ravages of 30 years of war.

THURSDAY

Inside Scotland Yard with Trevor McDonald
ITV, 9pm

For almost 200 years, the name Scotland Yard has been synonymous with detective work, and now in this two-part documentary, Trevor McDonald is learning more about the history of the Metropolitan Police Service's world-famous headquarters. It's a quest that takes in the building's Crime Museum, which includes exhibits (such as nooses, murder weapons and even body parts) from some of the Met's most famous cases. It wasn't just the criminals who were up to no good though, as Trevor takes a look at some early police disciplinary records, which show that in the Met's first six months, nearly half the officers were dismissed – drunkenness was the most common cause, but one early bobby got the boot for milking a cow while on duty.



Cold Feet, Monday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY

Countrywise: Guide to Britain
ITV, 8pm

New series. Ben Fogle and Liz Bonnin travel the length and breadth of Britain to discover the countryside's hidden gems, natural wonders and great escapes. Ben heads out on a tour of the stunning Isles of Scilly with his guide Colin Taylor, the police sergeant in charge of this little part of the world, while Liz Bonnin is on the Dorset coast on to view some of the millions of birds that travel thousands of miles to reach these shores each spring.

Would I Lie to You?

BBC1, 8.30pm
Rob Brydon presents as regular team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Nadiya Hussain, the winner of last year's The Great British Bake Off who is fresh from her own two-part documentary The Chronicles of Nadiya, as well as comic and actor Michael Smiley, and comedians Bob Mortimer and Diane Morgan. As usual, the participants aim to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves in a bid to secure a team victory and the dubious honour of being dubbed the liar of the week.

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BRAIN GYM No.393

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

17	15	18	2		2	12	18	5	3	5	16	20
2		8			26		3		6		15	
19		9	2	8	20	19	4	23		12		24
7	5	18			5		25	15	24	18		
16		15		6	8	24	7		20		11	
	16	19	25	15		24		13	8	19	10	15
				18			15	5				
12	5	1	8	15		6		21	5	19	15	
8		8			2	21	2	15		15		5
20	15	16	4			11				17	5	6
5		I										
24		S		15	2			5		8		11
22	2	4	24	15	21	2	14		16	4	18	23

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	N	T	Y	D	E	M	C	A	P	G	O	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
U	R	Q	V	F	I	L	X	S	K	W	Z	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Worry about ornamental work (4)
- 8. Wipe out an old boy who can read (10)
- 9. Delightful couple initially doing damage (8)
- 10. Riddle is put back a foot (4)
- 12. Stable in modern terms? (6)
- 14. Guardian of the southern gate (6)
- 15. Concurred it was a vice (6)
- 17. Red and repaired (6)
- 18. Little Leonard's glass (4)
- 19. 100 is too old to get insurance risk (8)
- 21. The levy means I am to gain status (10)
- 22. Retain a stronghold (4)

Down

- 2. The correct point of view is part square (5,5)
- 3. Excursion bound for ancient city (4)
- 4. Fish is one in position (6)
- 5. In which an actor's career is marked? (6)
- 6. Bars for him are not to drink in (8)
- 7. Got the texture of the material (4)
- 11. It fights burning issues, of course (4,6)
- 13. Dislike of one rendering (8)
- 16. Cede it mistakenly in dishonesty (6)
- 17. Being bare, dived with nothing on recklessly (6)
- 18. Placed face up (4)
- 20. This class is wild (4)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		8				
9					10	11
12		13		14		
15			16	17		
18			19		20	
21					22	

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Overlook (4)
- 8. Superiority (10)
- 9. Clandestine (4-4)
- 10. Probability (4)
- 12. Dwarf (6)
- 14. Risky (6)
- 15. Store (6)
- 17. Rejoinder (6)
- 18. Dread (4)
- 19. Divide (8)
- 21. Methodical (10)
- 22. Monarch (4)

Down

- 2. Nullify (10)
- 3. Look for (4)
- 4. Address (6)
- 5. Minister (6)
- 6. Echoing (8)
- 7. Dregs (4)
- 11. Adornment (10)
- 13. Produce (8)
- 16. Summary (6)
- 17. Esteem (6)
- 18. Fixed (4)
- 20. Boulder (4)

Sudoku

9			6	7	4			
8		4	3					
	2	7						
	1	9		8		2	6	
	3	2	5			1	9	
						7	2	
	6				5	9		1
	1		3	9				4

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	7	9	6	5	1	4	2	3
2	5	6	3	7	4	9	8	1
1	4	3	8	2	6	5	7	
5	9	8	4	3	6	7	1	2
3	1	2	9	8	7	5	4	6
4	6	7	2	1	5	8	3	9
6	8	1	7	4	3	2	9	5
7	3	4	5	2	9	1	6	8
9	2	5	1	6	8	3	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Icons; 8 Leopard; 9 Turns in; 10 Ridge; 12 Right way up; 15 Shake hands; 18 Defer; 19 Tunisia; 21 Grimace; 22 Swede. Down: 1 Distressed; 2 Worry; 3 Isis; 4 Clinch; 5 Borrowed; 6 Maydays; 11 Esplanades; 13 Ice-cream; 14 Mayfair; 16 Arnhem; 17 Ashes; 20 Nest. QUICK - Across: 7 Odour; 8 Impress; 9 Shorten; 10 Chill; 12 Court of law; 15 Liveliness; 18 Sprig; 19 Trachea; 21 Trainer; 22 Ledge. Down: 1 Constables; 2 Motor; 3 Brat; 4 Winner; 5 Spacious; 6 Legible; 11 Law-breaker; 13 Obliging; 14 Overran; 16 Nature; 17 Chide; 20 Able.

Quiz

- 1. Which prefix denotes one thousand millionth part?
- 2. In which country is the town of Hamelin, famous for the Pied Piper legend?
- 3. What can a corundum gem of any colour but red be called?
- 4. How is the viral disease rubella better known?
- 5. Of which mountains is Crete de la Neige the highest?
- 6. Which tree is also called cob?
- 7. Who played Annie Sugden in Emmerdale?
- 8. Which novelist was secretary to the Maharajah of Dewas in 1921?
- 9. Which tree has English, white and slippery varieties?
- 10. What is sorghum?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Pheasant; 2 Wet Wet Wet; 3 Cygnus; 4 Nimes; 5 Naomi Campbell; 6 St Marylebone; 7 Generator; 8 Nashville; 9 Brendan Barber; 10 A bird. Niner: CENSORIAL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

73456871 gives a game,
132287 gives a second game,
9463 gives a third game.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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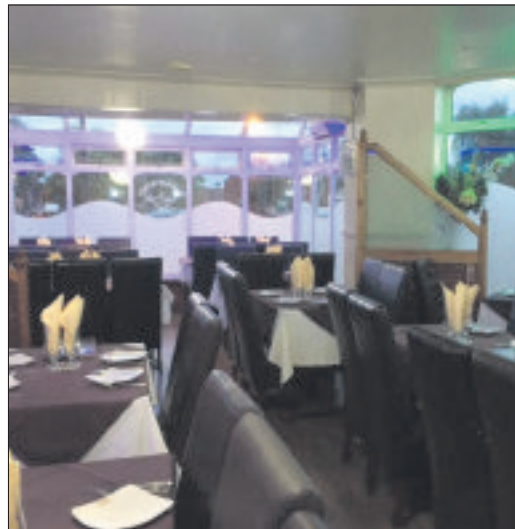
No question, this is tasty



Sanam Balti claims to be Cannock's first balti house



Owner Akeel presents a cheque for £250 to a Macmillan representative



Plenty of room and ideal for a romantic meal or family dining

IT'S not often I venture out for dinner on a work night, but on one Wednesday evening, the Sanam Balti just seemed so inviting.

The restaurant, in Cannock Road, Chadsmoor, professes to be Cannock's first balti house, having opened its doors in 1992.

It has recently branched out into quiz nights, with its inaugural event raising £250

for Macmillan Cancer Support. My daughter and I were instantly welcomed with a warm smile and ushered to our table in the light and well-decorated premises.

It's a large building, but with a great ambience and ideal for a romantic meal or family dining. Large parties can be catered for with a separate room upstairs.

The menu is varied and it was refreshing to see many new dishes. My daughter is vegetarian, but was well provided for. We both regularly eat Indian food so it was refreshing to

Meal review by Debbie Tavner

see that there was a lot to choose from on the vegetarian menu.

Rarely have I seen in Indian restaurants a children's menu, but here was one at the Sanam, of both English and Indian food, enabling children to enjoy a night out with their families.

Akeel, the owner, was quick to point out that children eat free on a Sunday. The restaurant

isn't licensed to serve alcohol, but diners are free to take in their own drinks.

After poppadums, we tried starters, with a vegetable platter for my daughter, made up of a vegetable samosa, onion bhaji and a mushroom bhaji and an unusual-looking Ghurka kebab, taken from the additional menu for myself. Very tasty they both were, too.

I was already feeling slightly full before our mains, my daughter opting for a traditional mushroom korma, while I plumped for a tandoori king prawn and salad. These came with

side dishes of pilau rice and Bombay potatoes – which to my mind were the best potatoes I have tasted in an Indian restaurant and were the perfect accompaniment.

A wide selection of desserts are available should you have space. But we, alas, didn't.

To dine in on a Monday and a Tuesday, poppadums, a main course and sundry from a set menu is just £8.85. A popular Wednesday takeaway offer for £9.95.

To book a table at the Sanam, call 01543 462105.

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31
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, September 1, 2016

Much-improved, yet traditional, detached house

A beautifully presented and much improved traditional style detached house with a substantial two storey extension, 121 Tipton Road, Woodsetton is for sale through Wakeman at £375,000.

Enviably positioned overlooking open countryside and farmland, this home is still convenient for Sedgley where a wide range of amenities are available. The property has an entrance porch with a wooden door with leaded inset and side windows and floor tiling, an entrance hall with parquet flooring and a built-in cupboard. The sitting room has a bay window and a living flame gas fire. There is an extended living room and dining area having windows to both the front and rear and a living flame gas fire. The extended breakfast kitchen has been extensively re-fitted with a range of high quality French oak units including base cupboards, drawer units, corner displays, work top surfaces, wall cupboards, glazed wall cupboards, an integrated refrigerator, provision for a dishwasher, double drainer stainless steel sink unit with mixer taps, part tiled walls, ceramic tiled flooring and a pantry.

Off the first floor landing is bedroom one which overlooks the front. Bedroom two overlooks the rear and has a range of built-in wardrobes, a chest of drawers, bedside cabinet and an en-suite shower room with a plumbed in shower, tiled walls and sliding glazed screen, wash hand basin in vanity unit with mixer taps, tiled splash backs, a low level WC, extractor fan and a chrome towel rail style radiator. Bedroom three overlooks the front and again has a range of built-in wardrobes with storage cupboards over and a dressing table inset. The bathroom has a white suite with roll edged bath with mixer taps and shower fitting, pedestal wash hand basin, low level WC, part tiled walls, a chrome rail-style radiator and an extractor fan.

Outside is a most attractively landscaped front garden with a driveway providing ample off street parking, a shaped lawn, a circular slabbed patio area, further slabbed area, shrubs, borders and beds. There is an attached garage with WC and a store room and utility. The attractively landscaped rear garden has patio areas, shaped lawns, shrub borders and beds, ornamental pool and timber garden store.

WOODSETTON £375,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman

TEL: 01384 459999

EMAIL: Dudley@wakeman-online.com



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Country/farmland views

Beautifully presented

Detached

Extended

Convenient position



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KINGSWINFORD, Southbank View

Superbly located within this exclusive cul de sac address and enjoying FANTASTIC DISTANT VIEWS to the fore, this EXTENDED & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED MODERN FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers an impressively spacious layout of luxury re-appointed and attractively presented accommodation which is 'READY TO MOVE INTO'; plus a long driveway, DOUBLE GARAGE and a pleasant patio / lawned rear garden. EPC

£274,950



WOODSETTON, Calder Rise

Attractive, meticulously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated, UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED Detached in short favoured cul-de-sac. Comprising: Reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units and integrated appliances, three bedrooms, re-appointed shower room (former bathroom) lengthy garage with extensive parking, landscaped 'low maintenance' rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £225,000



HIMLEY, School Road

A DECEPTIVE MODERN SEMI-DETACHED DORMER PROPERTY which is very well placed within the sought after Himley Village, with a LONG ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN backing onto the brook/stream with fields beyond, a position enhancing the GENEROUS layout of THREE BEDROOMS accommodation. EPC E

New price

£224,950



SEDGLEY, Northway, Gower Road

ENVIABLY SITUATED OVERLOOKING OPEN COUNTRYSIDE with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS towards Clee Hills in quiet cul-de-sac. A double glazed detached bungalow providing hall, two double bedrooms, shower room, 22'3" living/dining room, kitchen, 25ft side lobby/utility room, 23ft conservatory, garden, garage, carport. Offers in the region of £205,000 Leasehold OR Offers around £215,000 Freehold. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY



WORDSLEY, Hollyhurst Drive

A BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED & SUBSTANTIAL FAMILY MID TOWN HOUSE, superbly located, with GARAGE, DRIVE/ PARKING and a delightful Rear Garden, offering a VERY LARGE and WELL PRESENTED layout with 4 GOOD BEDROOMS, master with En Suite Shower Room. EPC C

No upward chain

£199,500



WORDSLEY, Greenways

An EXTENDED & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW with a LARGE REAR GARDEN. A setting which enhances the VERY WELL APPOINTED layout, including a LARGE CONSERVATORY and TWO GOOD BEDROOMS. With BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY, LARGE CARPORT and GARAGE. EPC D

£179,950



KINGSWINFORD, Standhills Road

A THOUGHTFULLY & ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW within this highly sought after address, offering a spacious, well appointed layout which is READY TO MOVE INTO, plus a driveway and a very large, pleasantly laid out garden. EPC C

£169,950



COSELEY, Bramford, Hockley Road

A conscientiously maintained, traditional, gas centrally heated and double glazed, Semi-Detached that would benefit from some sympathetic updating, set in popular/convenient district. Comprising: Porch, hall, pantry, lounge with bay, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, re-appointed wet/shower room, lengthy garage, neat garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,000



NETHERTON, The Beck

This STUNNINGLY FURNISHED & EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED HOME comprises: Initial Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Stylish Lounge, High Quality Kitchen Diner, Three Bedrooms, Two Beautifully Appointed Bathrooms, Off Road Parking & Pretty Rear Garden. EPC: C

£144,950



Three-bed semi for sale with no chain

DUDLEY
£163,500

For sale with no chain, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Corser Street, Dudley, has an asking price via Trinity Property at offers in excess of £163,500.

Including a large lounge, a driveway and a rear garden with a patio and lawn, it briefly comprises an entrance hallway a large lounge and fitted kitchen with a separate dining area, three good sized double bedrooms and a house bathroom, with a separate WC. The rear outside has a patio area, lawn and with various shrubs and borders with brick built shed.

This is a must see property and the agents are stressing that it really needs to be viewed in order to be fully appreciated.

For further information contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



Imposing family residence situated on a large corner plot

DUDLEY
£311,950

<<<

With four double bedrooms, this imposing property in Straits Road, Dudley, lies on a large corner plot.

Having extensive parking, garaging and a large car port, it is for sale through Taylors at £311,950. A gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached property, it lies within walking distance of the village and is presented in superb order.

It has a reception hall, a lounge with a feature fireplace and a window overlooking the frontage, a dining room, a utility room, a fitted cloakroom, a well equipped kitchen with wood-effect wall and base units and working surfaces and tiled flooring and splash-back tiling. This room has a clear breakfast room section, a galleried landing, four double bedrooms a bathroom and gardens.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



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27 Moat Road, Tipton
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £34,000 - £38,000



Walnut Cottage, 109 Cinder Bank, Netherton, Dudley
2 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £75,000 plus



13 Florence Road, Tipton
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £84,000 - £88,000



25 Oakham Avenue, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus



60 Priory Road, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £64,000 - £68,000



27 Baptist End Road, Netherton
2 Bedroom Residential Investment
Current Gross Income: £5,400pa.
Guide: £58,000 - £62,000



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For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

123 Lots

to include:

at Aston Villa Football Ground



View: 3 Sept 10:30, 5 Sept 11:15, 7 Sept 14:45

46 Pages Lane, Great Barr

A Semi Detached Property with Porch, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, WC, Garden, Driveway Parking, Side Garage/Store, Partial Double Glazing & Central Heating.

Guide: £79,000 - £84,000



View: 3 Sept 11:15, 5 Sept 12:00, 7 Sept 14:00

10 Delves Crescent, Walsall

A Semi Detached Property with Porch, Lobby, Reception Room, Kitchen, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom/WC with Shower, Gardens, Side Garage, Driveway Parking, part UPVC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating.

Guide: £50,000 plus



View: 3 Sept 12:15, 5 Sept 13:00, 7 Sept 13:00

Flat 60a Mill Road, Walsall

A First Floor Apartment, Situated in a Two Storey Block with Hall, Reception Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Shower Room/WC, Communal Gardens, Allocated Garage, Partial Double Glazing and Gas Fired Central Heating.

Guide: £19,000 - £24,000



View: 2 Sept 13:45, 5 Sept 13:45, 7 Sept 12:00

85 Shaw Road, Coseley

3 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



View: 2 Sept 13:00, 5 Sept 13:00, 7 Sept 12:45

3 Harvington Road, Coseley

3 Bed Detached House

Guide: £79,000 - £84,000



View: 3 Sept 14:45, 5 Sept 16:15, 7 Sept 9:45

23 Chetwyn Rd, Wolverhampton

3 Bed Semi Detached House which may be Suitable for Conversion to Flats/HMO*

Guide: £50,000 plus



View: 2 Sept 12:15, 5 Sept 12:15, 7 Sept 13:30

10 Ivyhouse Lane, Bilston

2 Bed Detached House with Development Potential*

Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



View: 2 Sept 15:15, 5 Sept 15:15, 7 Sept 10:30

45 South Green, Penn

3 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



View: 2 Sept 15:45, 5 Sept 15:45, 7 Sept 10:00

37 Claverley Drive, Penn

3 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £59,000 - £64,000



View: 2 Sept 14:30, 5 Sept 14:30, 7 Sept 11:15

51 Bevan Avenue, Parkfields

2 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



View: 3 Sept 13:15, 5 Sept 14:00, 7 Sept 12:00

5 Tryon Place, Bilston

2 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £19,000 - £24,000



View: 3 Sept 14:00, 5 Sept 14:45, 7 Sept 11:15

9 Bailey Road, Bilston

3 Bed Semi Detached House

Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



Viewings: The site is open for viewings

Land R/O 10 Broad St, Bilston

Development Site with Outline Planning for the Erection of 4 Flats

Guide: £15,000 - £20,000

FURTHER VIEWING APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. FOR DETAILS CALL THE OFFICE ON 0121 233 5046

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Fine residence of substance in a delightful position

SEDGLEY
£399,950

<<<

A fine residence of substance and quality in a delightful position, Orchard Bank, 153 Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, is set back along a country lane just off the Wolverhampton Road.

Having a rural feel and yet centrally location, it is for sale through Swinscoes at £399,950. The individually designed and immaculately maintained accommodation has flexible living space. This includes an entrance hallway, kitchen and utility room, lounge, a full size snooker/entertainment room, a dining room (possible bedroom four), a bedroom and a bathroom, while upstairs there are a further two bedrooms and an en-suite. There are extensive gardens to the front and rear of the property over a level of tiers, as well as double garage with workshop and another small garage.

Contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk



Recently redecorated modern detached

SMETHWICK
£239,950

A recently redecorated modern detached property on a popular estate with five bedrooms in Narel Sharpe Close, Smethwick, is ideal for commuting into Birmingham City Centre.

Recently redecorated and ideal for commuting, it is for sale through Scriven & Co at £239,950.

It has a canopied front entrance into a hallway, a cloakroom, three reception rooms, a kitchen, a staircase from hall to first floor landing, five bedrooms with an en-suite off the master, a house bathroom, central heating, double glazing, a side garage and front and rear gardens. The property has uPVC double glazing together with gas fired central heating.

Contact Scriven & Co on 0121 4224011 or visit www.scriven.co.uk



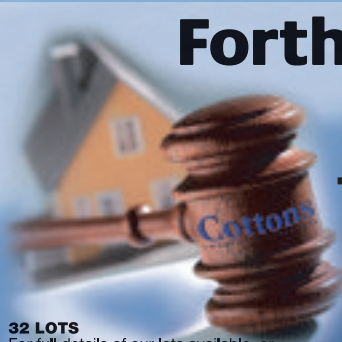
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6 ORCHARD GROVE,
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THE FORMER RED COW PUBLIC HOUSE.
EDGESTREET, BILSTON



116 KATHERINE ROAD,
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110 BIRMINGHAM ROAD,
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LOCK COTTAGE, HATTON BOTTOM LOCK,
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An appealing semi-detached three-bedroom home

A most appealing, three-bedroomed modern-style semi-detached family home in Minehead Road, Dudley, has just joined the property market.

It is for sale through Taylors at £149,950 with the huge advantage of having no chain.

In a popular location and with gas central heating and double glazing its accommodation briefly

DUDLEY
£149,950

comprises an entrance hall, a sitting room with a good sized dining area with plenty of space for a table and chairs, as well as a beam-effect to the ceiling and walls and a feature inglenook-style fireplace over a quarry-

tilled hearth. There is an L-shaped breakfast kitchen with plenty of modern light-wood-effect units with a pantry, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

Outside is a block paved drive with ample space for a number of vehicles, and there is a garage and an enclosed rear garden.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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121 TIPTON ROAD, WOODSETTON O/A £375,000

- Beautifully presented three bedroom traditional style detached house
- Substantial two storey rear extension, extended living room, extended breakfast kitchen
- Enviably positioned overlooking open countryside and farm land
- Attractively landscaped front & rear gardens with ample off road parking
- EPC RATING TBC



73 THE BROADWAY, DUDLEY O/A £315,000

- Beautifully presented and extended four bedroom family home
- Spacious well proportioned high quality accommodation
- Impressive hallway, two reception rooms, farmhouse style kitchen
- Rarely does a property of this quality come to the market
- EPC RATING D



46 BHYLLS LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON O/A £220,000

- Traditional well proportioned three bedroom semi detached house
- Extensively renovated and improved throughout
- External insulated wall cladding, re-wired, re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
- Good sized garden plot, useful brick built utility room/play room with w.c.
- EPC RATING C



COMING SOON IN GORNAL

Small development of four houses 3 & 4 bedroom detached
Spacious accommodation
Finished to a high standard

Predicted EPC RATING TBC
£220,000 - £295,000



68 WARD STREET £185,000

- COSELEY
- Detached bungalow
- Two bedrooms
- Shower room
- Spacious accommodation
- EPC RATING TBC



42 WALLOWES WOOD, LOWER GORNAL £185,000

- Well maintained three bedroom semi detached house
- Occupying a pleasant & popular cul de sac location
- Private south west facing rear garden with open views to fields
- Deceptive accommodation with utility room and rear conservatory
- EPC RATING D



75 NORTHWAY O/A £174,950

- SEDGLEY
- Well presented link detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Through lounge & dining room
- Situated on popular Northway housing estate
- EPC RATING E



139 SEDGLEY ROAD £170,000

- WOODSETTON
- Three bedroom detached house
- In need of updating works
- Excellent opportunity for purchaser
- Generous sized plot
- EPC RATING F



COMING SOON IN SEDGLEY

Small development of new houses
Initial release of three town houses with three bedrooms
Will be completed to a high standard
Predicted Epc rating tbc
£164,950



63 WALLOWES WOOD £155,000

- LOWER GORNAL
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Extended to right hand side
- Attractive level rear garden
- EPC RATING E



1 GOLDBOROUGH CLOSE, COSELEY O/A £125,000

- Modern three bedroom end terraced house occupying a corner position
- There are two allocated parking spaces at the front of the property
- enhanced by a conservatory which is accessed from the living room
- Representing an excellent opportunity for first time buyers or investors
- EPC RATING D



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X factor in Mazda 3 and 5

Mazda's compact CX-3 is an urban crossover that's reprising the success of its CX-5 big brother.

Mazda pulls out all the stops and condenses all the best bits of the gorgeous CX-5 into a smaller package. The CX-3 comes in front or all-wheel drive, and is offered with petrol or diesel power. It's light and it's good looking, with a chunky equipment list and reasonable pricing.

What more could you ask for?

All too often, cars in this class look gawky, too stubby, too tall and too narrow. Somehow the CX-3 just looks right, thanks to its cab-back body and long bonnet proportioning. The predatory headlights are anything but cutesy and the coupe-like roofline gives it a real sporting stance.

Like most crossovers in this class, the CX-3 is offered with a choice of front or all-

wheel drive chassis, and petrol and diesel engines. There are front-wheel drive models and the range-topping Sport Nav is all-wheel drive. The CX-3 is also offered with both manual and automatic transmissions.

Mazda's almost fanatical devotion to stripping unnecessary weight out of its cars means that although many of its cars look pretty substantial, they can weigh as much as a car in the next class down. This has all sorts of beneficial effects, not only in terms of vehicle dynamics but also when it comes to efficiency. Case in point: the CX-3 front-wheel drive diesel variant. With emissions of just 105g/km, this model has an official combined economy of 70.6mpg.

When it comes to compact SUVs and crossovers, Mazda's CX-5 may very well be the best car of this kind you can buy, especially in revised form with slicker suspension.

The market's fastest growing segment right now is that for crossovers and compact soft-roading SUVs. If you want something that offers the best of both and offers the



Mazda pulls out all the stops and condenses all the best bits of the CX-5 into a smaller package – the CX-3

finest driving dynamics, the lowest running costs, the most space and arguably the best value in the class, then it's hard to ignore Mazda's improved CX-5. But try one and you might just think it to be the best.

The CX-5 is excellently packaged, has class-leading economy and emissions plus driving dynamics that set a new benchmark in this sector. Add in a high specification and competitive pricing and you've a compelling proposition, especially since recent suspension and refinement improvements.

As for off road prowess, this car has a set-up in which the torque is automatically split according to the terrain you're on, so it can direct 100 per cent of drive to the front wheels in normal conditions, with up to 50 per cent then directed to the rear wheels if slip is detected.

The Mazda CX-5 is the least expensive car to run in its segment as well as being the best equipped.

It's yet another example of Mazda going its own way, and doing things differently to the rest of the herd.



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08/08 Nissan Qashqai Acenta 1.6
5dr, 52k, Black, Alloy Wheels, CD Player, Bluetooth, E/Windows, Cruise Control, Parking Sensors
£6495/£33 Per Week



07/57 Mini Cooper 1.6 Cooper Sidewalk
2dr Convertible, 63k, Silver, Alloys, Tan Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Roof, E/Windows
£5995 / £31 Per Week



09/09 Mercedes C180K Sport
5dr Automatic Estate, ONLY 35k MILES, Silver, AMG Alloys, Half Leather, CD, Climate Control, Park Sensors
£10495 / £56 Per Week



09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec
3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, Electric Windows
£5795 / £30 Per Week



08/57 Audi TT 2.0 TFSI 2dr S Tronic
Convertible Automatic, 55k, Red Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, E/Roof, E/Windows
£10495 / £56 Per Week



10/10 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDi Sport
60k, Mauve with White Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£5495 / £28 Per Week



07/57 Mercedes SLK 200K 1.8
2dr Tip Hard-top Convertible Automatic, 56k, Blue, Alloys, Cream Leather, Heated seats, CD, E/Roof
£9695 / £50 Per Week



07/07 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S
5dr 7 Seater MPV, 70k, Black, Alloys, Air Con, CD, Electric Windows
£4995 / £26 Per Week



09/09 Audi A4 2.0 TDI Diesel 143 SE
5dr Multitronic Auto Estate, 88k, Black, Alloys, Digital Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£8495 / £47 Per Week



09/58 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V Design
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Car redefines crossover

By John Griffiths

If you're a relatively small player in a fierce game against the big boys of the motor industry, perhaps your best bet is to find a gap in the market and fill it.

That's what SsangYong has done with its largest offering, the Tourismo, which has much in common (size apart) with its better known Korando stablemate.

It's a diesel-powered seven-seater, with the option of four wheel drive and automatic transmission, and even the top of the range model costs less than £25,000: there's not a lot more out there with the same credentials.

Plus it comes with the advantage of a five years, unlimited mileage, warranty.

The new model benefits from the Korean company's new 2.2 litre, 178PS mated to a slick Mercedes-Benz seven-speed auto transmission, compared to its predecessor's 2.0 litres, 155PS and five speed box. This alone has transformed the car, making it smoother and more driveable, for the sort of relaxed progress you'd expect of for a family on tour, as the name suggests.

The interior is marked out by its intelligent seating arrangement, although there is a lot of hard plastic surfaces which reflect cost savings. On the up side, the plastic could be an advantage if you're transporting young children or pets and want something that wipes down easily.

But it's the 2-2-3 seating layout which for me sets the Tourismo apart from many other seven-seaters. The front pair are American-style 'captain's chairs', mirrored by the second row pair which are separated by an

'aisle' which gives easier access to the rear bench of three seats.

It also means you can put your tallest passenger in the centre rear seat, as he/she will have plenty of room to stretch their legs along the centre aisle. The rear bench is removable, so if necessary you can increase the already generous 875 litres of boot space to a cavernous 3,146 – more than some vans. Unusually long items of cargo can be slotted in along the central aisle.

The top of the range ELX model tested costs £25,955, although the Tourismo range starts a some £6,000 less. The optional Kenwood satnav with central colour touch screen added £900 to the basic price tag, though.

The main instrument cluster, although large and clear, is centrally mounted which, at least during my test drive, isn't as intuitive in use as a more traditional behind the steering wheel arrangement.

The Tourismo rides smoothly and is reasonably dynamic for a large vehicle, although few buyers of this big cruiser will be attempting sports car cornering with it.

The seven speed auto transmission is highly responsive and smooth, with gear changes hardly noticeable. You can change manually using a thumb switch on the gear lever, which is at least as good, if not a better solution, that the now de rigueur flappy paddles.

The American-style, foot-operated parking brake is something else you get used to.

Upholstery in the ELX is leather clad, and an automatic air conditioning system with ceiling vents and fan controls ensures all passengers get the benefit.

All Tourismos get full connectivity through the audio system, electric windows and door mirrors, and tinted glass.



Big estate and people carrier all in one rather stylish shape – not as boxy as some people carriers or as square and chunky as some SUVs

Further up the range SsangYong adds leather upholstery, an electrically adjustable driver's seat, cruise control and parking sensors. The flagship ELX also gets automatic headlamps and wipers, 17-inch alloys and solar controlled glass.

It is also the model which comes with selectable four wheel drive and (increasingly unusual even in the SUV world) a low range transmission, ideal for those who tow a large caravan or horsebox (the braked trailer limit is 2,000kg).

The Tourismo's new engine has an official fuel average of 36.2mpg with auto-

matic transmission, which translates into a CO2 rating of 205g/km. Figures for the manual are better at 39.2mpg and 189g/km.

There's a lot of talk in the car world about 'crossovers', vehicles capable of fulfilling more than one role. The Tourismo redefines the term as a 4x4, big estate and people carrier all in one rather stylish shape – not as boxy as some people carriers or as square and chunky as some SUVs.

It also undercuts them, in some cases by thousands of pounds, so if it fits your needs it's worth a look.



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Hot hatch has plenty of grunt to get going

By Matt Joy

I rather like hot hatches. There's something brilliant about a nippy, sharp-handling car that comes in a handy-sized package.

That's exactly how I'd describe the Seat Ibiza Cupra. It's powered by a 1.8-litre turbocharged petrol engine which produces just shy of 190bhp.

Though that might not sound impressive straight away, the torque figure certainly is - 320Nm. This is the most useful part of the car, and it means that the little Cupra has more than enough grunt to handle almost every situation.

I was handed a car with under 200 miles on the clock, which means it's in that irritating running-in period. You've got to keep the revs and the speed in check, and this can be close to infuriating in a hot hatch.

That said, with the amount of torque mentioned, it's an easy car in which to travel along briskly without really needing to stress the engine. This also makes it immensely easy to drive on the motorway, and thanks to a sixth gear it's quiet, too.

System

The interior of the car is solid, and features a large infotainment screen that incorporates Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. It's a system that works really well, and the sound it emits isn't half bad either.

The seats aren't too heavily bolstered, as is on-trend with hot hatches of late, but that isn't such a bad thing - they still do the job just fine.

Everything feels as though it's had a good amount of thought lavished upon it, so it's worth paying to appreciate what's on offer.

So what are the initial impressions of the Cupra? Well, it's a car that does anything but become unstuck around the bends.

Even keeping the revs low, you can easily carry speed through the twisty stuff thanks to handling that is confidence inspiring at all times. There's great weight to the steering, and this can be increased by pressing the Sport button on the dash.

It also sounds like a proper hatch. We're quite sure it features some piped-in noise, but from the outside it certainly gives off a sporty exhaust note. Just what a hot hatch needs, then.

On a recent trip to Silverstone it coped just fine with motorway miles, riding well on some less-than-perfect surfaces. I wasn't able to get it out on to the track (and I think the factory fresh gearbox will thank me for that) but I've got an inkling that it would be a hoot on the circuit. One day soon, perhaps.

I'm looking forward to seeing how the Cupra loosens up over time.

We'll be pitting it against some rivals shortly, and I'm quite sure it'll hold its own.

TESTED

Model: Seat Ibiza Cupra, £18,900

Engine: 1.8-litre turbocharged petrol. Power: 189bhp

Max speed: 146mph

0-62mph: 6.9 seconds

Emissions: 145g/km

MPG: 45.6mpg (combined)

Bold new look for Kia's SUV Sorento

By James Fosdyke

Kia's flagship SUV has a bold new look, but can it compete with its established (and very popular) 4x4 rivals?

The immediately obvious change is the curvy new body, but that's not the only alteration Kia has made to its flagship SUV. Under the skin, there's an all-new platform with a stronger structure, an upgraded engine range, improved steering and revised suspension.

Inside, the cabin has a more premium feel and there's some pretty impressive equipment hiding in there too.

The trade-off for all these improvements, though, is a slight price increase – around 5 per cent to be exact. So has the Sorento lost its key selling point, or is it merely an even more capable alternative to the seven-seat SUV establishment?

As well as being longer, wider and lower than its predecessor, the new Sorento looks far beefier than the old car, not to mention more curvaceous. The bluff front end is adorned with a rather turgid version of the tiger-nose grille that comes across so aggressively on the Cee'd, and the rounded lights give a distinctly un-Kia-like doe-eyed look.

Nevertheless, it's actually quite an attractive-looking beast, albeit in a cuddly kind of way. It certainly won't look out of place in the school car park sitting alongside the XC90s, Outlanders and Q5s of this world.

Because the new Sorento is bigger than its forebear, interior space has greatly improved. In the 'standard' five-seat configuration, the 605-litre boot will be more than enough for a family's holiday luggage or ferrying kids' sports kit to and from practice sessions.

Pop the two rear seats up to create a seven-seater, though, and that space is compressed to 142 litres, which sounds like more than it is. You'd struggle to fit a small suitcase in there.

The upside of that is that you get seven seats capable of carrying adults, albeit too cramped to be considered comfortable. Kids, however, will likely find they have plenty of room.

Refined

Like most SUVs of this size, the Sorento hardly handles like a sports car, but it's refined, comfortable and generally a very pleasant steer. Vigorous cornering results in quite a lot of body roll, but it's no worse than, say, a Mitsubishi Outlander. The advantage of that roll, however, is a smooth ride – the undulations are soaked up with minimum fuss.

The 2.2-litre engine feels chunky enough to ensure progress is adequate, but it never feels anything like fast. More importantly, though, it's refined. Cruising along the motorway at a steady 70 won't necessitate an increase in stereo volume or raised voices, and while there's a mild grumble when you're setting off, it isn't especially intrusive.

Four-wheel drive is standard across the range, so traversing muddy fields won't be a problem, but Kia is well aware that the Sorento is more likely to be seen on the school run than a green lane, so a lack of ground clearance means the off-road performance is acceptable, rather than impressive.

It's efficient, though, returning 46.3mpg on the combined cycle and 41mpg on test. The 161g/km carbon dioxide emissions aren't bad either, and they keep tax relatively low for both private and business customers.

Value has traditionally been one of Kia's big selling points, and the Sorento's £28,795 starting price compares favourably with the likes of the less spacious Land Rover Discovery Sport. Towards the top of the range, though, the Kia seems to lose its price advantage. The upper-mid-range '3' model we tested came in at almost £36,000, while top-spec '4' variants get an asking price of almost £41,000. That's only £5,000 cheaper than the cheapest version of the larger and more prestigious Land Rover Discovery.

That said, the Kia does feel almost as premium as the ageing Discovery. The cabin plastics are exemplary, and the build quality seems to be pretty good too. There's even plenty of equipment, with our test car getting leather seats, satellite navigation, two-zone air conditioning, 18-inch alloys, heated seats front and rear, a heated steering wheel...

The list goes on and on.

TESTED

Model: Kia Sorento

Engine: 2.2-litre turbodiesel producing 197bhp and 311lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Six-speed manual with part-time four-wheel drive

Performance: 0-62mph 9secs, 124mph top speed

Economy: 46.3mpg (claimed)

Emissions: 161g/km (claimed)



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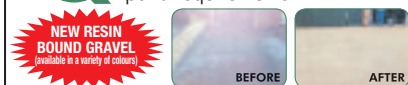
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No money up front, very competitive rates
We will beat any deal
Registered installers of
fibreglass roofs and uPVC,
fascias, soffits and guttering
Modern technology mixed
with traditional values.
Fully insured

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

01384 849090
07895 672594

ROOFIX ROOFING

FLAT ROOFING SPECIALISTS

All types of flat roofing systems
Tiling Work, Fascia, Soffits and Guttering
Chimney Repointing, **FREE** Quotations

Tel: 01902 560892 Mob: 07952 442017
www.roofixwm.co.uk

Skip Hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE

Save £££s

All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!

Open 7 days a week

07920 88 57 74 or **01384 24 09 56**



Specialists

J. M. Plumbing & Tiling

From Dripping Taps to a
Complete Bathroom Overhaul
Bathrooms, Wall and Floors Tiled
Kitchens Supplied and Installed
FREE PLANNING AVAILABLE

FREE QUOTES

No job too small - No call out charge
Tel: Jim **0121 533 2284** **07861 450491**
jjmplumbing@hotmail.com

Tuition

MATHEMATICS

Get a step ahead this summer
Finding Maths difficult?
Increase confidence and improve
skills with a qualified, experienced
specialist Maths teacher.
Primary, Secondary and Adult
learners welcome.
New Curriculum incorporated.
Numeracy prep for professional
entrance assessments.
No fee for initial consultation.

Telephone **07712 427936**

Tree Services

WOLVERHAMPTON TREE SERVICE

Trees felled, hedges
trimmed, stumps
removed, tree reports.
Fully insured.

Arboricultural Association & Council Approved.

01902 892652
www.wolvstrees.co.uk
E: treebloke@aol.com

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

01902 317878



Classified Ads

To advertise your business and reach more than 53,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...
01384 399903

2

E-mail us at...
martin.cartwright@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...
Martin Cartwright, Dudley Chronicle,
3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

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Free Ads

IT'S FREE IT'S EASY

For items up to **£250**
VISIT:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person
At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm
Monday - Friday for the next day's
advertisement or also before 3.00pm
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

funeral directors

J.R. JONES

Lower Gornal 01902 880040

DAINTY & DOWNING

Dudley 01384 252772

Independent family run
Funeral Directors
24 hour service
www.nedowning.co.uk

monumental masons

S. A. LOCKETT & SON LIMITED
337 Tottenhall Rd, Wolverhampton
WV6 0JZ. 01902 751823.
info@salockettandson.co.uk
www.salockettandson.co.uk

lost & found

GENTLEMANS LINK GOLD BRACELET
Lost in Cannock / Wolverhampton, very sentimental, deceased wife's last present.
Reward offered.
07596 541123.

1 Family

education & tuition

NEW TUITION CENTRE ENROLLING NOW at Royal Wolverhampton School
Key stage 1 & 2, GCSEs, 11+/grammar school entry, A levels
Fully qualified, experienced teachers. 07808 934374
gurpitts@hotmail.com

elderly & disabled

Capitol Mobility-Bilston
ARE YOU ON DLA OR PIP?
YOU COULD HAVE A SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR ON WEEKLY TERMS!
01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

SMALL DOUBLE riser recliner bed, perfect condition, unused, £700.
01902 398070. After 7pm.

STRAITS MOBILITY Now At Bilston Indoor Market
Stairlifts, Scooters, Wheelchairs & Daily living Aids.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

camping equipment

PENINE FIESTA
4-Berth folding camper, 2005, excellent condition, full awning, integral fridge, stove and sink.
£2,600 ono.
01543 278472.

car boot sales

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday
Every Sunday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane,
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Booters £4
6.00am-2pm
07538 842842

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sundays from 8am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449, DY6 0AA. 07710 644908. www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

COL'S CAR BOOT & MARKET
OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
Open Bank Holiday Monday at Hinkley Bypass, B4176
Ring Colin: 07973 904585
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OPEN ALL YEAR

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
Caravans 35x12 DG & CH from £15,000. 11 month holiday season. 01584823433. www.bcpark.co.uk

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
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AVONDALE CLASSIC touring Caravan, 2-Berth, 15ft, lightweight, very good condition. £3,250 ono. 01902 895481.

BK CONTESSA
Bluebird, 2003, Static, 26ft x 12ft Caravan. 2 bedroom, 6-Berth, sighted close near to the river in Worcester.
Very good condition.
£8,500 ovno. 01691 659071 or 07583 629907.

CARAVAN HOLIDAY HOME
Sited on small, owner only park in rural Mid Wales. Kitchen, lounge / diner, 2 bedrooms, shower / toilet.
Suit mature couple.
Fees paid to March 2017.
£3,950.
Telephone 01591 610625.

CARAVANS FOR SALE from £1,500 to £15,000. Something for everyone. Severnvalleyleisure.com
S Bridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

STATIC CARAVAN 35 x 10
6-Berth with decking, Mid Wales. Site fees paid for 2016.
Dog friendly.
£3,995 ono.
07922 351352. No texts.

SWIFT CHALLENGER 400 SE, 2 berth, Caravan, Isabella awning, £2,000. 01384 833035.

TOURING 4-BERTH CARAVAN
1993, Elddis Wisp with a big awning and with a end bedroom and all equipment, all ready to go on holiday.
£2,600
01902 761789.

WILLERBY VOGUE, DG and CH, sited North Wales, quick sale, fees paid for season. 07590 124226.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED anything considered. New or Old
01902 754011 or 07931 568716

music shop

RECORDS/CDs WANTED & SOLD
Cash paid. Vinyl Shop, 5a Cleveland Street, WV1 3HL. 07760 168972.

holidays

SANDY BAY WESTON SUPER MARE, 4 berth caravan, two double rooms quiet site, no pets, £260 pw
01934 626 494 / 07480 150 457

caravan holidays

ALAN JONES THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST! Est 1955 - 59 years at the top! Recommended by thousands. Genuine, honest, 100% reliable. WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO. Call: 01902 885985. ANY PROBLEM SOLVED.

mind, body & soul

massage

TRADITIONAL CHINESE Massage "Hot Stones". 01902 903659. 07741 690999. Compton WV6 8AF

what's on

bouncy castles

BOUNCY CASTLE HIRE Jump-Jens.co.uk Professional inflatable hire, fully insured. 079700 24953

3 Home & Services

furniture

DOUBLE BED, firm mattress, 12 months old, with headboard, £200 ono. 07784 318766.

in your garden

A ABSOLUTE beautiful cultivated lawn turf, grown locally, next day delivery from £1.50 per roll. 01902 453794 / 0844 3350820.

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/Fit. Free Quotes: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723910

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Jewellery • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre-47 silver coins All our needs etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

MYFORD METAL cutting lathe wanted, Myford super 7/1M/L wanted any condition considered. 07914 855281 or 01922 445739.
READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.
SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
1 AERIAL INTO 2 ROOMS £90
WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

ALAN JONES THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST! Est 1955 - 59 years at the top! Recommended by thousands. Genuine, honest, 100% reliable. WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO. Call: 01902 885985. ANY PROBLEM SOLVED.

CLEAR VISION AERIALS. Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV. Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers, Autos Fridges Vacs and Microwaves. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

domestic cleaning

CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast.
Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739. 07783 471949.
ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
PORTWAY FENCING

IT WORKS FOR ME

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"

Michael - Portway Fencing.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards, HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY FENCING/GATES LTD. Supply/fit. WV10 9QQ. Call 07816 863810.

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden, 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 194086.

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Prestwood Cave Nurseries, Wolverhampton Rd, Prestwood DY7 5AN
Call us on: 01384 273586
or 07947 873403 or visit www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

SUPREME LANDSCAPES & DRIVES block paving, patios, decking, brickwork, fencing etc. 01902 326755, 07898 130056.

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers
• Cookers
• Fires
• Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs. All areas covered. J&E Heating. Call John:
01902 562664 / 07969 687832

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

YMCA REQUIRE FURNITURE Free Collection. Telephone 01384 231714 for details.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed. Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047 0121 6010479

HANDYMAN & TRANSPORT In house/outs. Electrical, plumbing, carpentry/gardens. 07889 434584

LOCK AND CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, slabbing and roofing 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

CENTRA HEAT
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate. Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in September. T&C apply
01902 845211

ClassifiedAds

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IT WORKS FOR ME

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.

Mr Causar.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobbs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736
OVENBLITZ MIDLANDS Affordable oven cleaning specialists. See website or call 0800 773 4870.

painters / decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote 01902 494555
A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with attention to detail. Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 48194
Email: adamdesign@sky.com

C I PAINTING & DECORATING
Over 30 yrs experience City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07890 878 892 01902 650716.

INTERIOR PAINTER AND DECORATOR Friendly and reliable, clean and tidy. Call Deb 01384 829473 / 07502 396385

pest control

WASP NESTS DESTROYED £50. Bed bugs, all insect pests. Telephone John on 01902 112244.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING PLANS. Prepared/Submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 / 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

DOMESTIC PLASTERING
rendering & small building work undertaken. 40 years experience. For a free quote
Call Roy 07887 495726 07583 643932

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbing & heating

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request. fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler & 6 radiators £2200. 7 year warranty available 01902 790327/07973 721206.

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CENTRA HEAT

IT WORKS
FOR ME

We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us.

Martin - Centra Heat

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

SJH PLUMBING AND HEATING
Gas safe reg. all plumbing & central heating undertaken. Call for free quote: 07855 020552

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers. Blockages 07976 012468

property maintenance



LEGENDARY PROPERTY SERVICES
Electrics, Plumbing, Plastering, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Tiling, Carpentry
07857 459873
legendarypropertieservices.co.uk

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL Single items/Full loads from £20. OAP discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 618231.

KINGSWINFORD

REMOVALS

AND HOUSE CLEARANCES

We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.

Please call:
07966 281957

roofing

S&F ROOFING & GUTTERING

Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing, guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 6pm

Arrow Roofing & Guttering
Pitched roofing & lead work. Flat roofing, rubber & felt. All repointing.
Free quotes. 01902 820996

ROOFING

main, flat, felt, firestone rubber, fibreglass, all repointing, fascias, soffits, gutters. Free quotes. All quotes beaten. 8am-6pm. 01902 722447.

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238969 / 07580 465449

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE

CASTLE SKIP HIRE

Mini, midi and large skips

Also available mini digger with driver

01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

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upholstery

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antique es. 01902 698944 / 07817 842980.

4
Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique guns, taxidermy - big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS All neutered, inoculated and microchipped. Call 01922 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

RGT Wolverhampton @RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KIND HOMES WANTED JACK small, cute mostly white Jack Russell, approx 4yrs old.

JUNIOR 4yr old Bichon Frise cross, good with cats and other dogs.

ZIGGY loving, mature little black dog, needs loving home to spend the rest of his days with.

COCO 3 1/2 year old small brown dog, friendly happy little rent

BELLA 4yr old golden colour medium size girl, lovely, gentle nature, seeks loving home.

01588 676106
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

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Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

5
Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES For Small Business, Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

**6
Property**

accommodation to let

A 1/2 BEDROOM FLAT to let Chapel Ash, Finchfield, Wednesfield. ORP. DSS ok. 01902 686605.

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

DUDLEY Clean, furnished bedsit with own bath/kitchen. £87 p/w, for mature DSS. 07550 002549.

FEMALE wanted to share flat / rent. Willenhall, £200 pm plus bills. Shared bathroom. 07804 462906.

SHIFNAL 2/3 bed lovely house, CH, close to Centre/Station. £650pcm, no DSS. 07779 332203.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single, £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

land

LAND WANTED We are looking to rent from 5-300 acres of irrigated farm land for vegetable and arable crop rotation on a 3-10 year lease or we would even consider a short term and in return we offer a good price. If this is of interest please contact **Watersons Farms Ltd** 01386 853569.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

**7
Jobs**

full time - general

DRAINAGE ENGINEER

Midland Drainage Services, based in Brierley Hill, West Midlands are looking for a self-motivated individual who can work alone as well as in a team, to deliver a high quality service to their customers.

Ideal candidate would be willing to work within the Drainage Industry with High Pressure Water Jetting and CCTV Surveying.

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public & legal notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN BANKRUPTCY
DUDLEY COUNTY COURT

NO 5337 of 2007 RE: ROY DAVID HARRIS
Who at the date of the bankruptcy order, 11/04/2008 Employed resided at 49 Tame Street, West Bromwich, B70 0QP, lately residing at 5 Farmer Way, Tipton, West Midlands, DY4 0BE, formerly residing at 10 Ferguson Drive, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 7NS, previously residing at 27 Levison Drive, Tipton, West Midlands DY4.

NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the addressee listed.

I intend to pay within four months from 27th September 2016 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 3 p/£.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 27th September 2016 (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at LTADT, PO Box 490, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 1YR telephone 01473 383535 to supply a form.

NO 155 of 2008 RE: NEIL ROYDA FOWKES
Who at the date of the bankruptcy order 7 May 2008, resided at 35 Brookfield Way, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 0NE.

NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.

I intend to pay within four months from 22nd September 2016 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 8.83 p/£.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 22nd September 2016 otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at Second Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester M1 3BN or telephone 0161 234 8500 to supply a form.

Mr D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee

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LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3013 Box 419673

RUTH, 41, single mum fed up with child play, looking for adult relationship with attractive loving guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423629

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

SINGLE, broadminded female, 28, large breasted, seeks gent any age for discreet no strings adult fun. Looks unimportant. Text only Mailbox: 5526652

JANE, young 41, very broadminded discreet chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

THERESA, 44, green eyed single mum, very lonely, looking for loving companionship with male in similar situation, hopefully to become soul mates. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 423601

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363

AUTHORITATIVE demanding lady 54, requires servile male for household duties, any age. Text only Mailbox: 5527306

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

SASHA 33yr old fun loving attractive single mum looking for love with open-minded male seeking similar fun times without ties. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423572

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

LINDA, 58, lonely lady, WLTm gentleman 59-64, non-smoker likes walking in countryside and meals out. Coventry area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423671

LORRAINE, attractive solvent brunette, 34yrs, own house/car with gent any age, looks unimportant but must have GSOH. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 422415

30YR old attractive confident business women, frequently in area seeks older gent, for mutual spoiling, pampering and adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423633

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423605

If you fancy a chat, are tall, dark and handsome, give Caroline, 37, beautiful, tall, fit female a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423605

JESSICA, sporty blonde lady 32yrs, recently divorced so seeking some uncomplicated fun with older gent. Must have gosh. Text Only Box: 4039004

SUE, 58, feminine lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong-minded male, I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423577

BROWN eyed brunette female 65 smoker likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTm male 66 - 73 for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5501142

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423305

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Discreet, expected/assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

55 year old female looking for friendship, meals out, coffee, chats, work part time and carer for parent. Text only Mailbox: 5517508

VERY attractive blonde lady, own house in lovely village, loves travel, entertaining, exercise, would like to meet tall attractive solvent male. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

CAROLINE, slim attractive 40's fit female, OHAG, divorced and ready to be romanced again, seeks similar minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423301

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423305

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LORNA 34, sensual, shapely brunette WLTm tall friendly guy for romantic no strings fun. Ask no questions, I'll tell no lies! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423241

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

CATHY attractive 35yrs singleton, varied interests, looking for trustworthy male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423231

SARAH 39, blonde hair, blue/green eyes, fun loving and romantic looking for new possibilities with well built, dark haired tactile male. Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423095

LOVELY Oriental lady in Carmarthenshire seeks older man 70+ to share company and special times and to be a partner. Text only Mailbox: 5506384

RETIRED happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind and chap. Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

JANE, very attractive blonde, own house in lovely village, car etc, loves travel to sunny places, entertaining, exercise WLTm male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

LYN, 51, tall, curvy blue eyed brunette, loves countryside, motor sports and cuddles, seeks tactile romantic male for some fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423443

JEAN, 56, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man seeks mature male to share relaxed relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423305

STACY 28yr old gorgeous brunette with buxom figure, intelligent and sensual, WLTm gentleman 30-40, get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377509

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Discreet, expected/assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

55 year old female looking for friendship, meals out, coffee, chats, work part time and carer for parent. Text only Mailbox: 5517508

VERY attractive blonde lady, own house in lovely village, loves travel, entertaining, exercise, would like to meet tall attractive solvent male. Text only Mailbox: 5430085

CAROLINE, slim attractive 40's fit female, OHAG, divorced and ready to be romanced again, seeks similar minded male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423301

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DAVE 6ft black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes country pubs, summer, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360319

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789

DAVE, 57, WLTm lady 29-59, living in the Walsal/Black Country area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423727

MALE 63, 5ft 4ins, slim, easy going, naughty, GSOH, seeks petite, slim female for fun and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412553

BIRMINGHAM male, white, slim, young, 6ft, 5ft 4ins, short hair, looking for slim, petite female for friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412815

KEN, 53, married and looking for no strings, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423379

DAVE, 65, slim, white male, Birmingham area, easygoing, likes music, country pubs, animals, WLTm petite, easygoing, white female, for LTR friendship/relationship, if this is you get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423395

SEMI Retired male, 63, looking for lady for no strings attached discreet adult fun. Must be 40+ I am a Non Smoker and expect the same. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423761

MALE, 61, seeks lady similar age for nights out and friendship. Eridington, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423697

PETE, mature guy, 56, honest and kind, looking for a mature woman of similar age, for friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421817

MALE, 61, divorced, retired, WLTm male, looking for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423615

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388372

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly marriage. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412923

BRIAN, athletic, good looking, honest, loyal and caring WLTm similar lady to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423567

YOUNG at heart widower, looking for travelling companion with a view to romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423723

GUY, 47, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, loves music, DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 30-42, for friendship and LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423559

TONY, 58, tall, dark hair, seeks mature female, 65+, for hassle free liaisons, looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423389

ANDY, from West Brom, slim, very young looking 49, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together in a loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747

MALE, young looking 49, 5ft5, slim build, from West Bromwich, likes films, socialising, looking for a fun lady who likes to laugh, for friendship and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421783

ROBERT, slim, intelligent, N/S, 50's, seeks attractive, younger female for uncomplicated friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 312443

MALE 59, N/S, fit, slim, seeks attractive slim female for discreet no strings friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413655

RETIRED widower, 57", slim salt/pepper hair, quite active, interests vary, loyal, trustworthy, reliable, seeks mature lady for friendship. Text only Mailbox: 4906469

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Coach Mick Mielczarek and athletes at the Halesowen club



Falan Priest, aged 12,



Coach Ian Priest puts Billy Papworth and George Lamb, both aged 10, through their paces



Young club member Lee Wright, aged 16, practises the javelin

Athletics club is on the right track for success

HALESOWEN Athletic Club can look back on a rich and proud history and, judging by the amount of young talent on the club's books, the future is shaping up nicely as well.

The next generation of athletes are making impressive progress under the watchful eye of a knowledgeable coaching set-up and dedicated committee.

The whole operation is headed by chairman Rob Weaver, who is keen to add a new chapter to the growing success story.

The club was founded in 1922 by their most famous son Jack Price, who represented Great Britain in the 1908 London Olympic marathon – the first time the race was staged over 26 miles and 385 yards.

He continued to be involved as a coach at Halesowen Athletics & Cycling Club, as it became known, until the 1940s, by which time the club was established at its current home, the Manor Abbey Stadium on Manor Way.

Honour

Price's contribution was officially recognised recently when a plaque in his memory was unveiled in Halesowen town centre and the entrance to the club was renamed in his honour.

But having witnessed a fitting nod to the past, Weaver and the 15-strong committee are determined to drive the club forward and increase their 400-plus membership.

The club participates in a number of leagues including the Birmingham and District Cross Country League, West Midlands Young Athletes Cross Country League, Heart of England Young Athletes League and were promoted to the Premier Division of the Youth Development League for this year's track and

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

"It's a really vibrant club with lots of different age groups. The atmosphere is really good."

field season. "It's a really vibrant club with lots of different age groups," said Weaver.

"It's one of the few places where there is a mix of people of different ages and from different backgrounds. The atmosphere is really good."

"One of the things I would like us to do is bridge the gap between the youngsters and the club stalwarts."

"We have a thriving junior section and then the older members and stalwarts from 35-40 upwards. It's the late 20 and early 30s area where we would like to get more people."

While Weaver is seeking to increase adult membership, there is an endless supply of young talent on the club's books.

They include the Oliarnyk sisters – 14-year-old pentathlete Iris and sprinter Josie, 16 – sprinter Charles Hilliard and 400m runner Joe Rogers.

"We have a lot of talented youngsters," added Weaver. "Joe represented England at under-18 level last year at 400m and Charles, Iris and Josie all won medals at the England national indoor championships in Sheffield in February."

Under-15 athlete Tristan Dunn is another promising youngster having been ranked first in the UK last

year in both the hammer and shot. The recent cross country season saw Halesowen's under-17 girls team take the title with Lily Higgins winning the league series. Halesowen as a whole finished fifth out of the 21 teams that take part across the four age groups.

"We are very pro-active in terms of identifying talent and we also have good links with the local schools," said Weaver.

"We run a Saturday club for youngsters up to the age of 13. They can just come and sample various events without specialising too early. It's a pathway into the club without being competitive."

"If they show any promise then they can go along on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday night or whatever and have specialised coaching for the event they are good at. We have good coaches here and a wide range of coaches."

Record

But the success is not confined to the youngsters.

Alan Smallwood competes in the over-70 race-walking events and in 1993 he set an all-time record in the over-50s age category in the 3000m (13.06) which still stands today.

Marc Turner, who now races in the over-40s age category, has been running alongside the best in the UK for a number of years and won a silver medal in the 800m at last year's World Masters.

"One of the big things about the club is that you don't have to be a competitive runner," Weaver said.

"We deal with the elite end of athletics, but also welcome the mass participation runners who just want to get fit and don't want to compete."

"We are not an elite club. Some people might feel it's a bit intimidating to join a club, but it's not."

"If they take the courage to come down they will be made more than welcome."

To join the club, contact Rob Weaver on 07792 244614.

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Glassboys grab victory from the spot

Stourbridge 2 Barwell 1

STOURBRIDGE got their third win in a row after a thriller at Amblecote on Monday but were made to endure a nervy finish after a late penalty for the nine man visitors.

The Glassboys had the best of the first half, Kayelden Brown seeing his angled shot parried away by Barwell 'keeper Max Smith-Varnham and Chris Lait missing. It was Brown who got the breakthrough on 20 minutes when great work by Matt Dodd saw him cross low for Brown to score at the far post. Luke Benbow went just wide a minute later.

Barwell captain Eddie Nisevic was sent off for a second bookable offence on 76 minutes.

A great run by Brown down the left saw him square it to Benbow who scored from two yards out. Barwell's Brady Hickey saw a free kick saved by Matt Gould on 80 minutes. One minute later Story was brought down in the box by Lait and Hickey converted the penalty. There was still time for Nigel Julien to be sent off as the game ended stormily.

Nantwich 2 Stourbridge 3

Super-sub Brandon Hague was the hero when his stoppage-time strike secured the points for Gary Hackett's side in Cheshire. The game appeared to be heading for a 2-2 draw when Nantwich sub Josh Hancock saw red for a reckless challenge on Leon Broadhurst with just a couple of minutes left. Hague took advantage lashing home a loose ball following Chris Lait's effort on goal.

Glassboys had gone ahead when defender Dan Scarr's attempt struck Nantwich player Curtis Jones to wrongfoot home 'keeper Dave Parton. Luke Parton doubled the score three minutes later. But Nantwich came back with two goals late in the first half from Theo Stair and Ben Harrison.

Boxers on the rise as they take to ring undefeated

A DOZEN undefeated boxers take to the ring for the Hatton Promotions, in association with Black Country Boxing, six-fight show at Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium tomorrow night (Friday).

'On The Rise', sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, will be headlined by Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, up against Lithuanian Vaidas Balciauskas.

Nantwich's Nathan Gorman warms up for his Central Area heavyweight title showdown with David Howe in Stoke in October with an eight rounder against Croatian Ivica Perkovic, a 42-year-old veteran of more than 50 fights.

Fellow Ricky Hatton-trained prospect Reuben Arrowsmith is also in action, while Tewkesbury middleweight Adam Harper fights outside of Gloucestershire for the first time as he steps in with Russian born Andrej Cepur.

Swadincote super middleweight, Zach Parker faces tough Latvian Raimonds Sniedze. Completing the card is Navan super middleweight Chris Blaney, who has replaced Wolverhampton bantamweight Kyle Williams, a former Kickboxing World Champion.

Hogan makes it Open title double



Black country darter Paul Hogan

PAUL 'Crocodile Dundee' Hogan returned to his Black Country roots to retain the BDO Wolverhampton Open in its fourth year of existence.

The three-time World Championship quarter-finalist again took the £1,000 top prize at the annual non-ranked event.

The 52-year-old is Dudley-born and now lives in Basingstoke, but found Wolverhampton Sports Arena a home from home once more.

He won six games to claim first place, beating Adam Smith-Neale in the final of a tournament with a £3,000 prize fund. Hogan also landed himself a place at October's World Masters and will be

Darts

entered into the play-offs to return to the worlds at Lakeside. Ninety darters took part, paying £10 to enter. Four groups produced the semi-finalists, with Hogan defeating Eddie Dootson 4-2. Smith-Neale battled to the last leg before getting the better of Roberts 4-3.

Play was upgraded to the best-of-nine for the final. Hogan won 5-1 to net another four-figure haul. Some 27 players were involved in a Sports Arena-sponsored disability darts tournament. Rob Williams was the winner.

Consolation goal is too little too late

Halesowen Town 1 Hednesford 3

A COMFORTABLE Hednesford victory left Halesowen still seeking their first home win of the season.

Despite player suspensions, the Pitmen enjoyed much the better of the first period with Gurjit Singh and Simeon Maye going close with early efforts.

George Carline gave Hednesford the lead with a glancing header through a crowded goalmouth from a ninth minute corner. Ashley Sammons then twisted on the edge of the Yeltz area to curl just wide after 11 minutes.

Hednesford's Carline headed two further efforts just off the mark early in the second half but Tom Thorley could only guide a close range header over the bar.

Halesowen's late attempt to apply more forward pressure only allowed superior Hednesford to pick off the home defence with two further goals. Sammons latched onto substitute Danny Glover's flick and his low 74th minute drive escaped goalkeeper Dan Platt's grasp to double the lead.

The Pitmen finished strongly and Glover made it 3-0 just two minutes later when the ball was played to find Simeon Maye free on the right and he crossed for Glover to convert.

Goalkeeper Platt was forced to make a good save from Carline after 81 minutes and then kept out a 25-yard shot from substitute Sean Geddes.

Halesowen finally earned an 88th minute consolation goal through Kaiman Anderson's solo effort after he burst through to fire past the visiting 'keeper Dan Crane.

Rushall 1 Halesowen 0

Rushall Olympic were made to work hard to secure victory in a cut-and-thrust derby against Halesowen Town at a wet Dales Lane. The goal arrived on 34 minutes when a cross from Bilal Yafai found Aaron Forde.

Tyler is Wight choice to help the Heathens

CRADLEY look to get their play-off bid back on track when they face Stoke at Monmore Green on Tuesday.

The Heathens have suffered a bad spell but are still in with a chance of securing a top four spot, especially after Belle Vue slipped up at home last week.

They have two home meetings left at their adopted Wolverhampton track, against the Potters and Kent, and four away meetings including a trip to Kent on Monday.

Boss Will Pottinger has moved to plug the gap caused by James Purchase's injury by bringing former Heathen Tyler Govier back from the Isle of Wight.

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MIND THE GAP FOR LATE TRY

DK 7 Bridgnorth 10

DUDLEY Kingswinford lost their last warm up game to Bridgnorth on the scoreboard but it was one of those pre-season friendlies that the scoreboard is not perhaps the best guide to which team actually got the most from the game.

In the opening 28 minutes before the first try there were nine penalties awarded to both teams, of which at least half were in the kickers' range, yet no shots at goal.

This opening period had seen both sides endeavour to impose themselves on the game but both defences had stood firm.

In the 28th minute James Rodley, the Shropshire side's new player-coach, was on hand to score the first try. The try was born out of a partially charged down kick which was recovered by Bridgnorth and it then became a race between the cover defence and the attacking support players, ended in a pile-up just short of the DK line. The ball popped out on the Bridgnorth side, giving the visitors inches to make for the try. The kick was missed, 5-0 to Bridgnorth.

Just three minutes later, Matt Farrington rolled back the years to when he wore the blue and blue of DK, and made a long range break to cut through the home defence and score in the same corner. Again the kick was missed again, so only 10-0.

In the final ten minutes of the half DK's defence tightened to prevent Bridgnorth extending their lead, including a magnificent covering tackle by Nic Adams.

On 50 minutes Arran Hudson was yellow carded for tackling a player in the air but DK weathered the sin bin period without conceding.

With the game entering the final ten minutes, a Bridgnorth number five was yellow carded and during the sin bin period DK were able to crank up the pressure with their phase play and this led to Danny Hawkins to make the most of the gap in defence to score a try and Duncan Tomkins added the conversion.

Tennis club courts success



Winning captains, from left, Joan Bowles, Jane Fox, Dave Tranter, Richard Davies

A TENNIS club has netted success with four teams serving up promotion. It was an impressive end to the summer campaign for men's and women's teams at Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club.

The club has seven teams competing in the Staffordshire Summer Leagues and saw four of them winning their leagues to gain promotion. The Mens B team achieved what is thought to be their highest ever points score of 49 from a possible 56 in Staffordshire Division 6 South, winning 11 of their 14 matches in an unbeaten season.

The Mens C team were also unbeaten in their 14-games season, but were pushed hard

to win the Division 7 South title, achieving 40 points in their first season together as they held off the challenge of Wednesbury.

With the Ladies Teams, the C team had an impressive haul winning seven of their 10 matches beating second place Streetly by six points in Division 3 South. The D team had a much closer run having to beat Wolverhampton E team 3-1 in their final match to secure the Division 4 South title.

Men's Captain Alan Hughes said: "The success of Wollaston Tennis Club team tennis this summer has been based not only on ability but also a commitment to represent the club in competitive tennis."

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